Entertainment / A2-1

Somebody wanted me out of GMA 7, says Bianca King

Sports / A27

Retief Goosen hangs on to 3-shot US Open lead

Business / B2-1

'Pope Mobile' builder arming for success

News / A9

Blowing in the wind more than a phrase in Ilocos Norte

Lifestyle / D3

Perfect fit for minimalist art, haiku

'Hello Garci' downloads trigger crash of website

SA INIT NG "HELLO GARCI," PATI COMPUTER BUMIGAY!

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG may not find the ring tones funny, but tens of thousands of Filipinos are downloading onto their computers and mobile phones President

HELLO/ A20

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Cory, activists pledge to help Suu Kyi crusade

FORMER President Corazon Aquino and Filipino activists offered prayers for the unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi on her 60th birthday yesterday, pledging to help her crusade to bring democracy to military-ruled Burma (Myanmar).

Suu Kyi remained under house arrest in the country's capital, Rangoon (Yangon), despite

CORY/ A20

Wife says Garcillano still in the country

'My husband is ready to face any investigation'

By Christine O. Avendaño, Nikko Dizon and Leila B. Salaverria
in Manila
and Maricel Casiño-Rivera
PDI Mindanao Bureau

EMBATTLED former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano is in the country and ready to face any investigation if ordered by the courts, his wife said last night.

"He is not a fugitive from justice," Grace Garcillano said in a television interview. "No case is filed against him. Why will he flee the country?"

Grace was interviewed by phone on ABS-CBN television hours after former Sen. Francisco Tatad said that the former commissioner of the Commission on Elections had flown out of the Philippines for Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, escorted by Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane.

Citing "independent sources" he refused to identify, Tatad said Garcillano was accompanied by his wife when he purportedly left Cagayan de Oro City on Saturday.

Teams of INQUIRER reporters in Metro Manila and Cagayan de Oro were unable to confirm Tatad's report.

"As a wife, I confirm that he is in the country and is not fleeing the country," Grace said.

She said her husband was ready to face any investigation as long there was a court order.

The ABS-CBN network said Grace was at home in Cagayan de Oro when she was interviewed.

Garcillano is at the center of a potentially explosive political controversy following the release of a tape containing supposedly wiretapped conversations between him and President Macapagal-Arroyo allegedly dealing with cheating in the May 2004 elections.

Ms Arroyo has refused to directly comment on the tape dispute, leaving Garcillano as possibly the one man who could say whether it was the President he was allegedly talking with on the tape.

But Garcillano has denied it was his voice on the the tape.

The authenticity and source of the supposed recording have also not been officially established, despite opposition claims that it is authentic.

Grace also said in the television interview that many people called her husband when he was still with the Comelec.

"Why are they not on the tape? Why is

WIFE/ A8

AN IFUGAO boy helps his parents bring home the harvest from the world-famous rice terraces, made more bountiful after a small hydroelectric plant was installed.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Ifugao micro-hydro plant finalist in Global Environment Awards

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A micro-hydro power plant that helps sustain the world-renowned Ifugao rice terraces is among this year's seven finalists for the Global Environmental Awards.

On June 29, Prince Charles will present the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy to the Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement (Sitmo) in a reception at the Royal Geographical Society in London for its "outstanding, inspirational and innovative local sustainable energy scheme that protects the environment and [improves] the people's quality of life."

Picked from 80 other projects worldwide, the Sitmo initiative will share the 200,000-euro prize with other finalists from Bangladesh, Honduras, India, Nepal, Nigeria and Rwanda.

Louis Cabbigat, an Ifugao farmer with no formal training in engineering, designed the micro-hydro system for Sitmo. It diverts the water flow through a channel on the terraces in Barangay Gode in Hungduan town to a small turbine on the riverbank.

Gode villagers helped build the 3-kilowatt plant.

Other Ifugao villagers have developed various designs for micro-hydro plants. One is called the "firefly," which is used to charge 12-volt batter-

IFUGAO/ A6

Customs cop chief faces raps for failing lifestyle check

By Michelle V. Remo
Business

ANOTHER official of the Bureau of Customs, this time a customs police chief, who claimed he won millions of pesos from lotto to justify his assets, will be charged today with graft in the Office of the Ombudsman for failing the government's lifestyle check.

Jose Brigido Nicomedes Yuchongco owns various pieces of real estate, including a mansion in a posh subdivision in Metro Manila, and has taken expensive trips abroad with his family while earning a modest salary, according to the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS), a unit of the Department of Finance tasked with conducting the lifestyle check and with pursuing cases of corruption.

A draft of the complaint to be filed with the Office of the Ombudsman says Yuchongco earns an annual salary of P256,116 (or P21,343 a month) as special police chief of the Customs Police Division-Enforcement and Security Service, which is assigned to the South Harbor in Manila.

He started out as a customs policeman in 1982, earning an annual salary of P12,516 (or P1,778 a month).

"Word from people in the BOC says this person is corrupt, and that he is well-connected. We really need to pin him down," said one of the team members of RIPS.

CUSTOMS/ A8

Illegal tapes used as tools to oust gov't

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

SINCE 1986, Filipinos have gone into an orgy of cannibalistic head-hunting that has toppled two administrations in 15 years: that of Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and that of Joseph Estrada in 2001. This was done through extraconstitutional and extra-electoral mob action in the streets.

They are again being incited to march in the streets to bring to a premature end the elected administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has sat in the presidency for no more than a year of her elected term.

Marcos was toppled by people power after a total of 20 years in office (including his second elected term starting in 1970 added to 14 years of dictatorship). Estrada lost power after holding office for less than

ILLEGAL/ A4

More Filipino husbands doing housework, says poll

THE COUNTRY is in the midst of a revolution—a gender revolution.

More Filipino husbands are doing the housework and younger men across the socioeconomic spectrum are getting acquainted with their feminine side, market research company ACNielsen said.

Women now have greater career opportunities, while males are moving into female domains, such as nursing and secretarial and reception work, helping to blur the traditional divide, ACNielsen said in releasing its surveys this week.

Between 7 and 8 percent of all urban households in the Philippines now had "a male housewife, and the number is steadily growing," said Feddie Magpantay, executive director of ACNielsen Philippines.

Many of the men chose to stay at home despite having "marketable skills and academic credentials" that would have enabled them to find work outside the home, Magpantay said.

But 45 percent of them evolved in Manila because there was no other choice, he said.

"With the wives now being the main income earners, these men have taken to running the household as their contribution to easing the family's situation," Magpantay said.

Fourteen percent did so voluntarily because they had their own "lofty ideas about running households and the high standards that should be observed."

A separate ACNielsen survey showed more than 10 million Filipino males, or nearly half the national population of males aged 18 or older, could now be considered "metrosexuals" who spend more time and money on their appearance and lifestyle than the average Juan de la Cruz.

Most of these men are not gay, said Aggie Mañalac, ACNielsen country research director.

MORE/ A4

ACTIVIST priest Fr. Robert Reyes and Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca talk about the life of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal during a Father's Day forum at Arroceros Park in Manila.
ERIK ARAZAS

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Light to moderate winds blowing from the southeast and south will prevail over Luzon and coming from the east and southeast over Visayas and Mindanao. The coastal waters throughout the archipelago will be slight to moderate.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/06/20/05

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Erap exec, ex-generals summoned

y Luige A. del Puerto

. CABINET secretary in the administration of deposed resident Joseph Estrada and two retired generals have een summoned to appear before police in connection vith the investigation of a military intelligence agent imlicated in allegations President Macapagal-Arroyo cheatd in the last election.

Subpoenas were sent last week o retired Generals Joselin lazareno and Jaime de los Santos, oth former Armed Forces chiefs, r. Supt. Asher Dolina, head of the lational Capital Region Criminal ıvestigation and Detection Group old reporters yesterday.

Dolina said a subpoena had een prepared for former Agrarin Reform Secretary Horacio Boy" Morales but it had not yet een served.

Dolina is investigating the case f TSgt. Vidal Doble of the Intellience Service of the Armed orces of the Philippines (Isafp).

Samuel Ong, a former deputy hief of the National Bureau of Investigation, had identified Doble as the source of an alleged wiretapped telephone conversation purportedly showing that Ms Arroyo had pressed former Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano for a one-million vote margin.

Doble has denied the allegation and said Ong paid him P2 million to read a statement on camera condemning irregularities in the Arroyo administration. Doble also said he learned from Ong that the money had come from former starlet Laarni Enriquez, who has three children by Estrada. Enriquez has denied Doble's allegation.

Police officials declined to elaborate on why the two generals and Morales were being summoned other than their names were mentioned by Doble. De los Santos and Nazareno were reported to have headed a group of retired generals who went around Mindanao after the May 10 polls urging military commanders to remain neutral.

Also yesterday, Dolina said police had been in touch with Doble's brother Reynaldo and Marietta Santos, described as a female companion of the Isafp agent, and that the two corroborated Doble's claim that they saw the money when it was handed over to Doble at the Imperial Hotel in Quezon City sometime in April and that they received part of it.

Dolina has said an affidavit executed by Doble showed he gave P200,000 to his brother, P75,000 to Santos and another P200,000 to NBI photographer Lito Santiago. The affidavit has not been released, although some of its contents had been recounted to reporters.

Doble mysteriously showed up at the San Carlos Seminary where Ong had taken sanctuary for three days after Ong announced his bombshell on June 10. Doble's Kidapawan-based wife Arlene later surfaced in Manila to claim that the Isafp agent was being illegally detained by Ong. Doble was brought out of the seminary by Bishop Socrates Villegas on June 13.

Officials later said that Doble was being investigated in connection with the charge of illegal detention brought against Ong by Doble's wife. Reporters have not been allowed to talk to Doble. Ong's whereabouts are not known.

Police have also invited Enriquez, Santiago and actor Rez Cortez for questioning in connection with the Doble affair.

Cops to replay Doble version of events

By Luige A. del Puerto and Leila B. Salaverria

POLICE investigators are set to conduct today a reenactment of army intelligence agent TSgt. Vidal Doble's ordeal from the time he was supposedly offered cash by former National Bureau of Investigation official Samuel Ong in a hotel in Quezon City to the time he was brought to the San Carlos Seminary in Makati.

Police conduct a reenactment to check the plausibility of the victim's or accused's story. It provides a glimpse into what may have taken place at a crime scene and could corroborate or reject details of a version of events.

If allowed to, investigators will enter the house of a "Dr. Cherry" in Sampaloc, Manila, the Imperial Hotel and the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City, as well as the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City.

According to Doble's affidavit, Ong offered him P2 million one morning in April 2005 on the 5th floor of the Imperial Hotel. When Doble refused, Ong threatened to harm him and his family. He accepted the cash and agreed to state on video that he was the one who provided Ong with the "mother of all tapes" allegedly containing President Macapagal-Arroyo's wiretapped conversations with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Doble had supposedly been under the care of Ong's trusted aide, Lito Santiago, in the Sampaloc house, two days before Ong's explosive press conference last week where he named Doble as a source of the tapes.

In his affidavit, Doble said he and a female companion were brought to the Sto. Domingo Church, and then later to the San Carlos Seminary.

Col. Dioscoro Reyes, former chief of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force and Doble's former boss, had also been summoned by the police, according to TV news reports.

"But Doble was not kidnapped," this according to outgoing National Labor Relations Commission chief Roy Señeres, a member of Ong's battery of lawyers headed by Liwayway Vinzons-Chato.

"How will the priests kidnap Doble? Who will you listen to? The priests [at San Carlos Seminary] or the Isafp (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines)?" Señeres said, adding that Doble was probably tortured into making the confession.

I believe he was tortured to say what he did. They were almost strangling (Doble) when he was turned over to them. If I had been there, I would have grabbed Doble myself to protect him," Señeres said.

Doble was turned over to Isafp, and later to the police, after he was brought out of the San Carlos Seminary by Bishop Socrates Villegas.

Prelate raps media coverage of Church leaders

HE HEAD of the Catholic Bishops onference of the Philippines coninued to decline to take a stand n the controversies surrounding he presidency yesterday but fired salvo at media for allegedly porraying the Catholic Church hierrchy as being in disarray.

"We are thrown into a pit and nade to appear as though we were ighting when in fact we are not; it s of course ludicrous, like producng smoke where there is no fire," BCP head Davao Archbishop Ferando Capalla said in a statement ublished in the CBCP Monitor, the ishops' official organ.

Capalla said media apparently were engaging in the strategy of *"pagsasabong,"* that is, pitting fighting cocks against each other in an arena. He lamented that news stories made "bishops and priests appear as though they are in conflict with one another."

"One cannot really say whether this is intentional on the part of media practitioners or is but the result of miscommunication and differences in ways of thinking and perception," he said.

"But it certainly causes a certain amount of damage in that it somehow soils the face of Mother Church. It gives the erroneous impression that the Philippine Church has lost its moral leadership because its leaders cannot agree on issues. As the news stories depict, ours has become a disunited Church," he said.

Capalla said most bishops preferred to "stay out of the limelight."

However, he said, "some of us grant occasional interviews to media people, particularly when we have causes to champion or when we feel that what we know may contribute towards enlightening or improving things for our people."

Capalla complained that when they did so, he and fellow bishops were "often quoted out of context." At times, he said, "casual remarks are blown out of proportion and find their way into headlines." But he did not give examples of what he meant.

Capalla said that in such situations, they were like men stuck in quicksand—the more they moved, the deeper they sank.

"In this case, the more we say, the more misunderstood (or misquoted) we get. Is there a way for the true picture to surface?" he asked.

Answering his own question, Capalla urged fellow bishops to take the "standpoint of prayer."

Christian V. Esguerra

Long division, fractions, and the things that truly count.

Mr. Lao exhaled a whispered prayer as he opened the envelope. He knew that inside, his son Raymund's latest grades would be waiting, and he wasn't too hopeful. Raymund hadn't been doing well since early in the school year and he could see no reason for things to be better this quarter. "He lacks concentration," his teacher said. "It's like when he sees numbers he turns away so he can look at other things instead." Mr. Lao closed the envelope again.

"Pare, don't worry. Raymund will be fine. I used to hate math myself. And I'm a banker." That's what Ernie had told Mr. Lao over coffee as they studied the latest financials of Mr. Lao's linen business. Ernie was Mr. Lao's banker at iBank. He took care of Mr. Lao's corporate account, and was used to dropping by his office to facilitate transactions. "Maybe I can find a tutor for him," Ernie offered.

Mr. Lao had wanted to say "Thanks, but I've already tried and no tutor wants to take him on. They're too concerned about helping students who are already doing well. Besides it's too late in the year."

But he didn't say that. Something in Ernie's manner sparked a sense of hope in Mr. Lao. So instead, "Thanks, Ernie. I'd really appreciate it."

And Ernie did find a tutor. "She helps my sister's son with his math lessons, too, so she knows what she's doing. Besides, she's really patient. Mahusay talaga," he explained.

Mr. Lao had been really thankful then. Specially when he saw the renewed eagerness with which Raymund tackled even the trickiest fractions.

"You didn't have to, Ernie. But thank you so much. Salamat."

"Anything to help, sir."

But that was a semester ago. And today, Mr. Lao fumbled nervously with the envelope. "I'll have to recommend him to transfer schools if his grades don't get better," the teacher had said. Mr. Lao drew out the card. Amid a jumble of mid to high line of eights it stood out rather plainly:

Math: 93.

Raymund had apparently done his job. So had the tutor. And Ernie as well.

Chuckling at his own lack of faith, Mr. Lao got up, and got ready to drop by the bank.

He had some thank yous to make.

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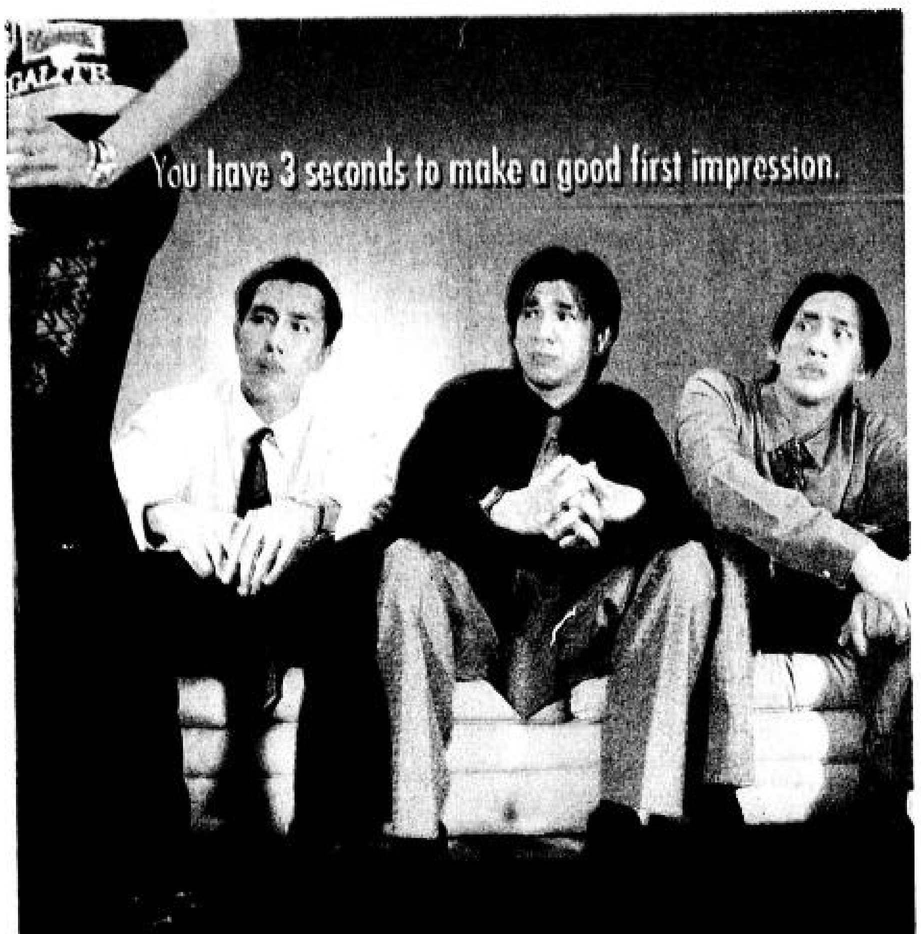
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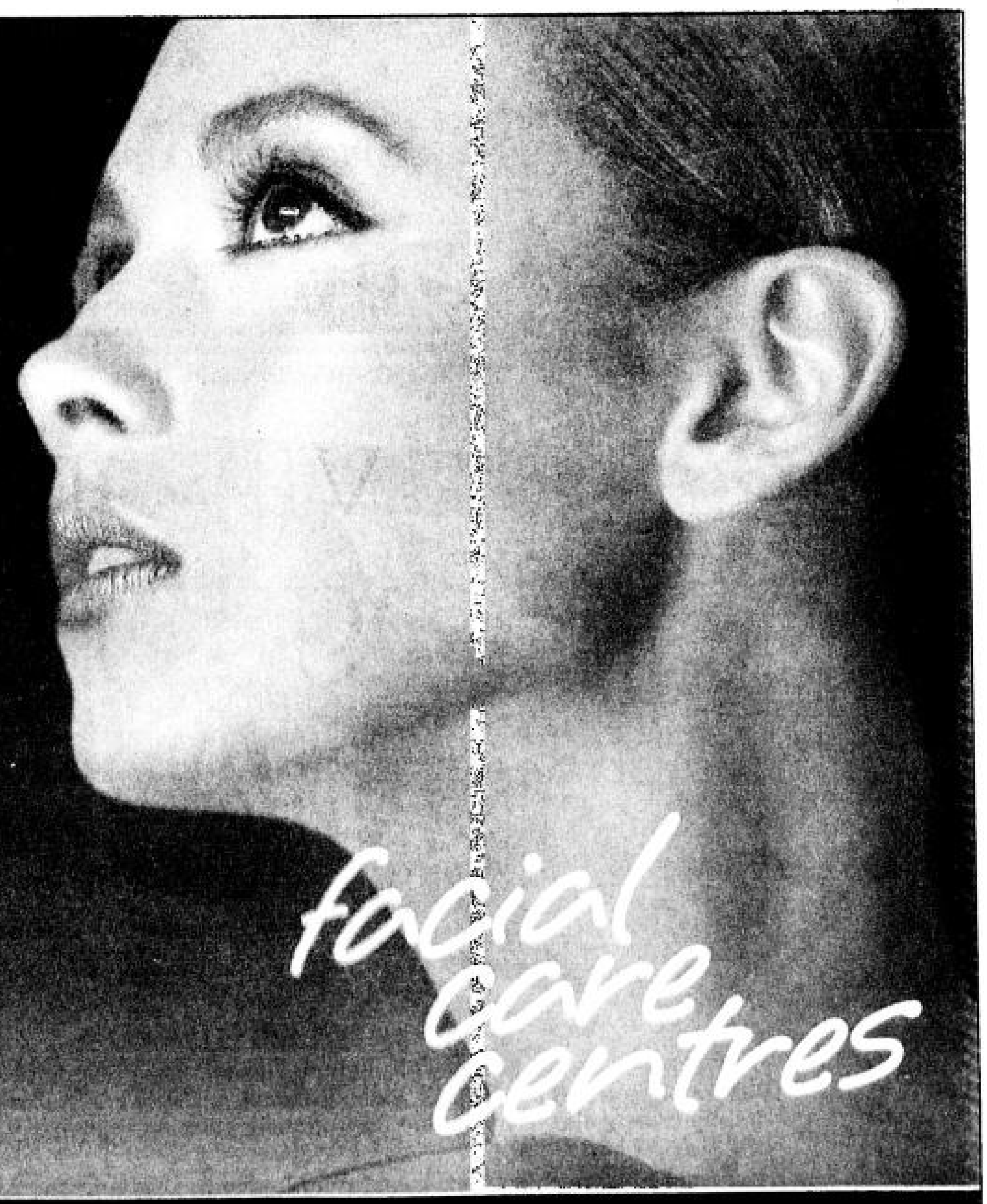
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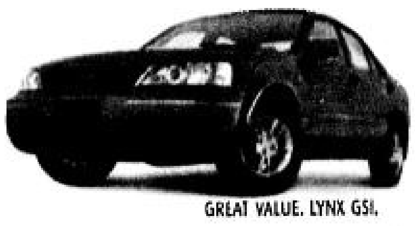
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Illegal tapes used as tools to oust gov't

From page A1

three years of his six-year term.

The overthrow of Marcos ushered in a turbulent period of political instability marked not only by people power movements but also by six naked attempts by the military to seize power, unsettling the administration of President Corazon Aquino for most of her term.

Between 1986 and today, the Philippines has experienced more frequent turnover of power (four in all, from Aquino to Fidel Ramos, to Estrada and to Ms Arroyo) than its neighbors. Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia all experienced long-serving governments—Indonesia, 30 years of authoritarianism of President Suharto; Singapore, 18 years of "soft authoritarianism" of Lee Kuan Yew, and Malaysia, 24 years of Mahathir Mohamad's authoritarian rule.

The Philippines is unique among its Southeast Asian neighbors in that, while it is identified as a functional democracy in the Western model of liberal democracy, it is the only country in the region where leadership change has been driven more by people power than by elections.

The Philippines is different from Western democracies in that it has enshrined mob rule as a mode of political change, resulting in a volatile democracy, too often rocked by imperfections in its constitutional system.

Anarchy of parties

Ms Arroyo's administration faces the threat of following the fate of its immediate predecessor, the Estrada regime, also an elected government, as a short-term government under siege from its enemies calling for her resignation, for a mass movement to undercut her regime and make it vulnerable to military intervention.

The volatility of Philippine democracy and its vulnerability to musical-chair governments call to mind the rapid and the frequent fall of governments during the Fourth French Republic between 1946, when Gen. Charles de Gaulle resigned from the prime ministership after he failed to form an all-party coalition government ("an anarchy of parties," he called it), and 1958, when he was called back from retirement in his country retreat at Colombey le-deux-Eglises to form a strong government with nearly blanket powers to recast the constitution. That paved the way for the establishment of the Fifth Republic with a strong presidency.

The formation of the Fifth Republic was preceded by a grave political crisis generated by the war for independence in Algeria, a crisis that sent France to the edge of civil war.

De Gaulle returned to government as a savior, given a blank mandate to govern even to the extent of ruling by decree for the duration of the emergency stemming from the Algerian crisis.

In the post-war years, Italy had a similar quick turnover of governments, which saw a change of government nearly every month.

Tyranny of people power

The saving grace that saved the French and Italian governments from collapse under siege from crises was the framework of parliamentary democracy flexible enough to defuse political tensions and to allow political compromises to resolve seemingly intractable conflicts within this framework.

As the current Philippine crisis stemming from corruption charges and alleged rigging of the 2004 election by Ms Arroyo deepens, the campaign to shift to parliamentary system within a federal state structure has shifted to high gear, forcing Ms Arroyo to decide that she would call in January next year a constitutional convention to engineer the shift.

The Philippines' political system faces a different sort of anarchy from the European parliamentary model. It is bedeviled not by "an anarchy of parties" but what may be called the anarchy produced by an excess and abuse of people power as a mode to remove instantly from office intensely hated presidents.

The threat of mass mobilization to topple an unpopular government has become a tyranny of people power rather than a political weapon or a blessing to overthrow a dictatorship, deriving precedent from the first Edsa Revolution.

Deflecting grievances

Given the persistent calls for the resignation of Ms Arroyo and for another people power, our political system has reached a cul de sac, where the pressures for it to effect immediate political change could cause a systems breakdown due to overload.

If there had been a parliamentary system, these pressures would have been channeled to the parliamentary arena, where a vote of non-confidence could bring down a government.

That would preclude the deflection of the grievances to the streets, where mob rule could be incited by disgruntled opposition elements (not necessarily a notional and institutional opposition entity) to bring down a reviled regime, on the basis of illegally obtained tapes of tapped telephone conversations and seedy witnesses produced from the murky nooks of gutter politics to give evidence of allegedly serious offenses that are claimed to justify a presidential impeachment action, another mob action and military intervention.

In reality, what passes for an opposition is a motley collection of antiregime elements without a singular and eminent leader, with clashing agendas and without a political program or policy to replace those of the regime they seek to depose.

I have never seen any Philippine administration since independence whose life is more threatened by extralegal and extraconstitutional attempts to overthrow than the present one.

I have covered a number of Senate blue ribbon investigations over corruption or even allegations of abuse of power in which rules of evidence and verification of witnesses were not rampantly discarded to make way for political witch-hunts.

Those inquiries never relied on tapes and illegally tapped conversations to replace verifiable evidence as basis for judgment. Many governments have come and gone, driven out of office through election, through disclosures of corruption within the framework of rules and orderly process.

Dangerous turn

The demand today to bring down the administration, accused of corruption and election-rigging, is reaching the dangerous turn of discarding the legal and constitutional framework defining the procedure and basis of ending the term of the elected President.

This is dangerous because the administration has become hostage to tapes and frame-ups and even blackmail by whistleblowers. Tapes have hijacked the orderly process of the rule of law. They are being used to try to overthrow an administration and to unsettle it, so the resulting instability and political turmoil will not allow any administration to govern and implement its programs.

Meet issue head-on, Loren tells GMA

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER Sen. Loren Legarda has broken her silence on the alleged wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election official and has urged the President to confront the issue, saying the people deserved an explanation.

"She owes it to the people. She should confront the issue because it is in the best interest of the country," Legarda told the INQUIRER.

"In this political crisis, you can't have a knee-jerk reaction. I keep an open mind because of my electoral protest [against Vice President Noli de Castro] before the PET (Presidential Electoral Tribunal). I say my piece from a distance," she said.

Legarda pointed out that the root cause of the political uncertainty was the President's "lack of mandate" from the people.

In her electoral protest, Legarda asked for a recount of the election returns (ERs) from 9,007 precincts in six provinces, one city and five municipalities, and the ballots from 124,404 precincts in 44 cities and provinces.

The ER pertains to the vote count in the precinct level while the ballot count would be the actual number of ballots cast by the voters.

"My plea is for the PET to speed up the resolution of my protest. If we open the ballot boxes, the truth will come out," she said.

Legarda said she would not have filed the protest in July last year if she, her lawyers, as well as the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., were not sure of the evidence they had that they were cheated.

The political turmoil brought about by the release of the alleged wiretapped conversations between the President and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano somehow vindicated her, Legarda said.

She said she and Poe followed the constitutional process when they filed their election protests in their search for the truth.

"For a while, I thought I was a lone ranger when I filed my protest. I really think I've been guided by Divine Providence," she said.

More Filipino . . .

From page A1

Mañalac said more than 160,000 males from the country's miniscule "A and B" group of top income earners could also be considered metrosexual, aside from the 10 million or so from the "C and D" middle classes.

ACNielsen said the C and D classes that make up 63 percent of the Philippine population typically have monthly household incomes of between P15,000 and P50,000.

These males went to the beauty salon at least once a month, regularly used personal care products, and were more open about seeking the advice of their peers or female relatives on grooming tips. *AFP*

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 20, 2005
12th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 12:1-9
Gospel: Matthew 7:1-5

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not judge and you will not be judged. In the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and the measure you use for others will be used for you. Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and not see the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother: 'Come, let me take the speck from your eye,' as long as that plank is in your own? Hypocrite, take first the plank out of your own eye, then you will see clear enough to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Commentary

More pragmatics: don't judge! Don't judge others harshly unless that's the way you want God to judge you! Don't judge others with a sliding standard of conduct that demands more of some then others, unless you want God to judge you that arbitrarily or in relation to others! And if we're so good at seeing the specks of evil and wrong in others—watch out, God will be the first to point out great long planks of wood that stick out of us all over the place. If we are interested in pointing out evil and naming it and making it a spectacle, then we had best begin with ourselves—there is plenty enough there without searching out others. How clearly do we see ourselves? We are so good at finding fault with others? Can we see that what we see in others, we can only see because it resides first in us? O God, in your mercy teach us to see with your eyes, both ourselves and others.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (TORTS AND DAMAGES)—**Employer and employee as joint tortfeasors**—The basis of the present action is a tort. Joint tort feasors are jointly and severally liable for the tort which they commit. Joint tort feasors are all the persons who command, instigate, promote, encourage, advise, countenance, cooperate in, aid or abet the commission of a tort, or who approve of it after it is done, if done for their benefit. As operator of dzRC-AM and employer of Rima and Alegre, FBNI is solidarily liable to pay for damages arising from the libelous broadcasts. An employer and employee are solidarily liable for a defamatory statement by the employee within the course and scope of his or her employment, at least when the employer authorizes or ratifies the defamation. In this case, Rima and Alegre were clearly performing their official duties as hosts of FBNI's radio program Exposé when they aired the broadcasts. FBNI showed that it exercised diligence in the selection of its broadcasters without introducing any evidence to prove that it observed the same diligence in the supervision of Rima and Alegre. FBNI's alleged constant reminder to its broadcasters to "observe truth, fairness and objectivity and to refrain from using libelous and indecent language" is not enough to prove due diligence in the supervision of its broadcasters. FBNI claims that it "has taken all the precaution in their selection of broadcasters, bearing in mind their qualifications." However, no clear and convincing evidence shows that Rima and Alegre underwent FBNI's "regimented process" of application. Furthermore, FBNI admits that Rima and Alegre had deficiencies in their KBP accreditation, which is one of FBNI's requirements before it hires a broadcaster. Clearly, these circumstances show FBNI's lack of diligence in selecting and supervising Rima and Alegre. Hence, FBNI is solidarily liable to pay damages together with Rima and Alegre. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Caprio, First Division, Filipinas Broadcasting Network, Inc. v. Ago Medical and Educational Center-Bicol Christian College of Medicine, G. R. No. 141994, January 17, 2005)

BY R.B. VERA

Protests to greet GMA in HK

HONG KONG—A Filipino labor group, angry that President Macapagal-Arroyo isn't planning to meet with migrant workers during her whirlwind one-day trip to Hong Kong today, said it was planning a protest when the President arrives here.

The President is scheduled to meet with business leaders and officials as she tries to drum up investment for the Philippines during her Hong Kong visit, the start of a series of foreign trips aimed at wooing investors to the country.

"The President would like to tell business investors that despite the political bickerings in the country, the economy continues to grow," her spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, told RMN radio in Manila yesterday.

The trip, which will last for only 13 hours, comes amid a political storm back home, with opponents accusing her family of pocketing huge illegal gambling payoffs. They're also alleging that she rigged the 2004 election after a tape of her supposed phone conversations with a top election official surfaced.

Ms Arroyo has ordered an investigation of the graft accusations, but has refused to directly comment on the vote fraud allegations. But Congress has moved to investigate the case starting tomorrow.

The United Filipinos in Hong Kong—which calls itself an alliance of migrant organizations—said it will try to confront Ms Arroyo about the alleged vote-rigging. The group also said the President should meet with the thousands of Filipino workers in Hong Kong.

"What fears does she have with the Filipino community here? What does she have to hide from us?" the group's secretary general, Solores Balladares, said in a statement.

The group plans a picket protest at the Philippine consulate.

In Manila, Bunye said Ms Arroyo's schedule is so tight that she would not be able to meet with the Filipino community.

Among those she's scheduled to meet are Tony Kwok, the former head of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption and now Ms Arroyo's anticorruption adviser, and Airport Authority chair Victor Fung, who will host a lunch in her honor.

Expected at the luncheon are representatives from several leading companies in Hong Kong, including Hopewell Holdings, Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd., HSBC Holdings and Swire Pacific Ltd.

"President Gloria is expected to tell the Hong Kong businessmen that the Philippines provides best value for their investments and that there is so much to be positive about in the Philippines," Bunye said in a newspaper column to be published Monday.

The President was expected to meet with representatives of regional media after lunch.

Ms Arroyo's Hong Kong trip is one of several to major Asian financial and business hubs. She will also make investment promotion trips to Singapore and Japan, but no dates have been announced, Bunye said.

The President is expected to fly to Hong Kong at 7 a.m. today and will be back by 8 p.m. tonight, Bunye said, adding that he and Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima will be the only Cabinet members who will accompany the President. He also said the Chief Executive has not designated anyone to be government caretaker while she is away on the very short trip. *AP; with a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

1M jobs created in 2005—Palace

THE GOVERNMENT was able to provide 1.09 million jobs in the first five months of the year, Malacañang reported yesterday.

This means the government remains "on track" in its goal to create six to 10 million jobs by 2010, Presidential Management Staff head Rigoberto Tiglao said in a statement.

Data released by Malacañang showed that as of June 17, work on infrastructure projects created the most jobs, with the Department of Public Works and Highways hiring 388,449 people between January and March alone.

Wages for the workers totaled an estimated P1.06 billion, the data showed.

The other jobs created by the government in the past five months were in microfinancing (152,123 hired), housing (126,716), agribusiness land development (99,730), tourism (98,837) and economic zones (83,896), among others.

"Key components of the job generation program include developing two million hectares of land for agribusiness; creating three million micro, small and medium enterprises through credit, technology and marketing support; and developing key industries such as housing, tourism, mining, exports, and information and communications technology," Tiglao said. *Christine O. Avendaño*

Economic ties top agenda of two visits

By Nikko Dizon

AMID the political turmoil hounding her administration, President Macapagal-Arroyo will welcome this week Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudyohono and Gambian President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh, who both arrive today on an official and a state visit, respectively.

On top of the agenda of the visits are their countries' economic relations with the Philippines.

President Arroyo will leave early today for Hong Kong and would be back later tonight.

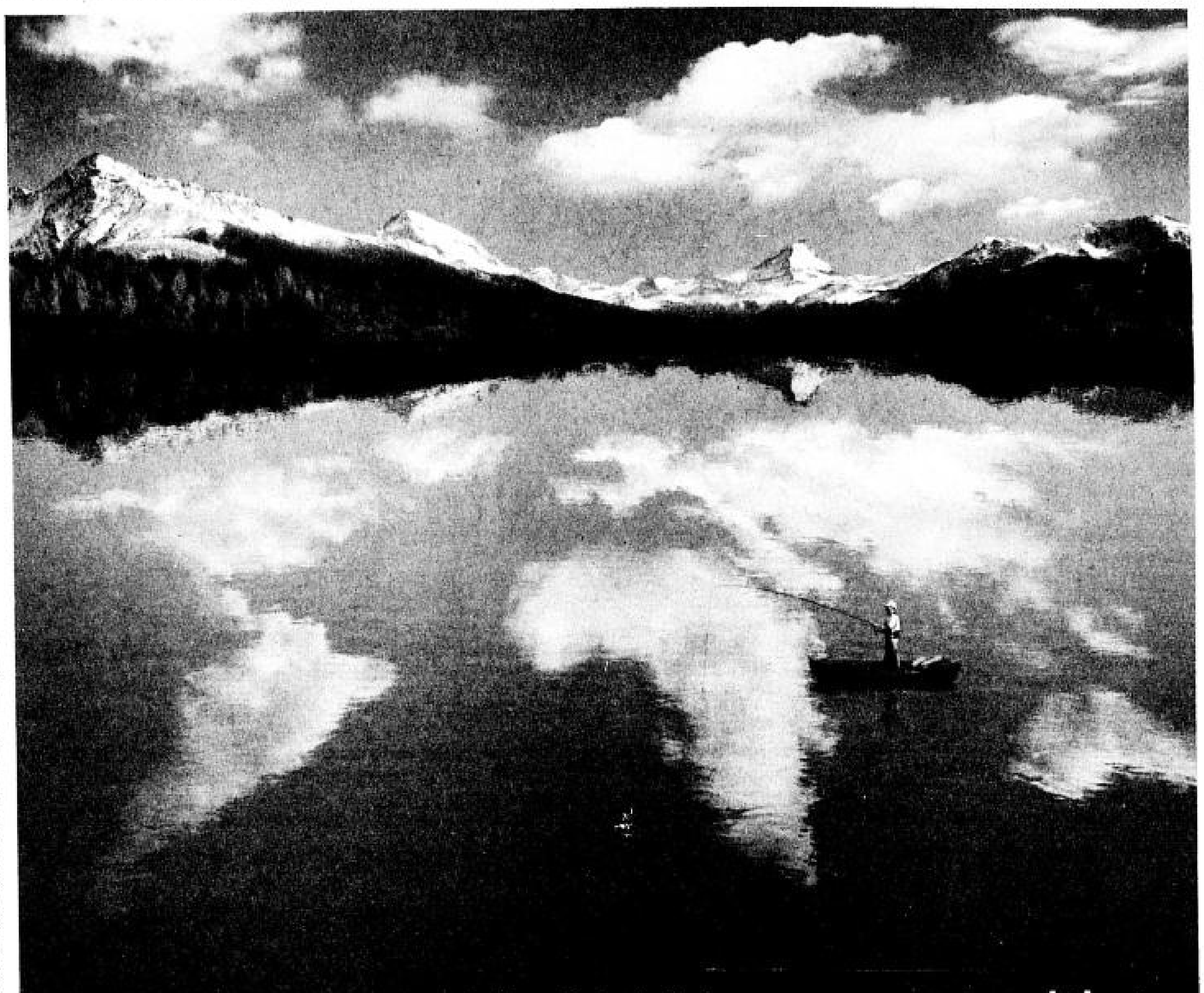
Ms Arroyo and Yudyohono will discuss the expansion of economic relations, counter-terrorism efforts and maritime cooperation between the Philippines and Indonesia, as well as the revitalization of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) when they meet in Malacañang, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Jammeh's visit is expected to strengthen the West African state's diplomatic relations with the Philippines.

The visit would also hopefully boost the Philippines' bid for observer status in the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Gambia is one of the 16 members of OIC's Commission of Eminent Persons that prepare recommendations to reform and restructure the OIC, including formulating the modes of admission or accession in the organization.

Ms Arroyo and Jammeh will discuss the possibility of making the African country a viable market for Philippine products.



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Ifugao micro-hydro plant finalist in global awards

From page A1

ies to power lights and recharge small household appliances such as transistor radios.

Another is the "dragonfly," which provides electricity to more than 30 families in the village of Bokiawan in Kiangan town.

Established in 2000, Sitmo is a nongovernment organization staffed mainly by Ifugao volunteers. It was created through the initiative of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement in Ifugao.

For the Ifugao people, the award is the fruit of their hard work to save the centuries-old terraces amid scant resources from the national government.

Positive recognition

"This is the most positive recognition of the efforts of civil society groups in Ifugao who have been in the sidelines too long in the development arena," said former Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr., now Sitmo president.

"The award and the fund it carries will provide us the impetus to continue our work since we are the only agency, government or nongovernment, that is doing something constructive for the rice terraces," he told the INQUIRER in an e-mail message.

Baguilat said the micro-hydro project was "exclusively the brainchild of Ifugaos."

Environment-friendly

"It helps us realize that we don't always have to run to the government to sort out our problems; we can do it ourselves," he said.

He said the prize money would be used to train local associations to maintain the project.

ASIDE from its rice terraces, Ifugao is famous for its fine woodcarving, a skill handed down through generations. EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The micro-hydro project is a cheap, renewable and environment-friendly power system developed by Ifugao's "barefoot engineers" with assistance from foreign volunteers, Baguilat said.

The project was conceived after villagers realized that their precious heritage, the rice terraces, was being abandoned by Ifugao youth who preferred to seek greener pastures in other towns or abroad.

Baguilat said once farms were neglected, the owners were tempted to either sell the timber or were unable to prevent it from being stolen.

With the forest gone to logging, Ifugao villagers noted that the supply of water in the terraces had dwindled. Rains that hit the bare hills had triggered landslides and floods that destroyed properties in lowland areas.

"The micro-hydro project galvanizes the community to enhance its watersheds, thus providing water to the terraces. It is anticipated that power can spur economic development in the rural areas," Baguilat said.

"With the development of more livelihood opportunities, Ifugaos will be convinced to stay in the terrace areas," he said.

National pride

Appealing to national leaders for funding, he said the Ifugao terraces had become a symbol of national pride. They are also among the prime tourist destinations in the country.

Baguilat also urged Ifugao families to make a "collective choice" to have at least one member of the family stay in the province to take care of the terraces.

He said with this commitment from Ifugaos, the agriculture cycle and the accompanying traditions and customs tied to the rice terraces would continue.

In return, those who have gone abroad or are living well in the cities and other urban areas should subsidize the needs of those who have stayed behind so they will continue to safeguard the Ifugao heritage, he said.

Baguilat said the people who started Sitmo in 2000 have remained with the group because they believed in the vision of tapping community support and resources to preserve their heritage.

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L300 FB SINGLE AIRCON	602,000	80,400	23,745	16,917	11,832
L300 FB DUAL AIRCON	615,000	83,000	24,258	17,282	12,087
L300 AF	530,000	71,000	20,905	14,894	10,417
L300 WT	552,000	75,400	21,773	15,512	10,848
L300 PET	554,000	75,800	21,852	15,568	10,888

Low Monthly Plans / 0% Interest Plans

50% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	30 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
287,500	23,958	15,972	11,979	8,928	7,160	6,244
301,000	25,083	16,722	12,542	9,235	7,406	6,459
307,500	25,625	17,083	12,813	9,463	7,569	6,619
265,000	22,083	14,722	11,042	8,138	6,526	5,692
276,000	23,000	15,333	11,500	8,524	6,836	5,962
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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

DepEd chief given power over higher education body

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT of Education will still respect the autonomy of the Commission on Higher Education despite a presidential order giving Education Secretary Florencio Abad oversight over the CHEd.

In a statement released by his office, Abad said the new order "will not weaken the autonomy of CHEd."

"We will continue to support CHEd in pursuing its mandate and basic directions. But what is more important is for us to use this opportunity to closely coordinate and even harmonize the directions of both basic and higher education," Abad said.

At the onset, Abad said, he would work with CHEd to improve the quality of education in teachers' schools, whose graduates supply the majority of tutors in the public schools.

"We need to ensure that teacher education institutions produce graduates who are equipped with the competencies required to teach in our public schools," he said.

The education secretary also said the DepEd would tap state colleges and universities to provide strategic research, teacher training and technical assistance to improve the instruction of English, mathematics and science in the public schools.

Abad and CHEd chair Carlito Puno are expected to meet soon to discuss the administrative mechanisms of Abad's new powers.

The CHEd was created in 1994 through Republic Act No. 7722. According to the law, the commission shall be "independent and separate from the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), and attached to the Office of the President for administrative purposes only."

The DECS was renamed the Department of Education (DepEd) in 2001 and focused solely on basic elementary and secondary public education.

Last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 434, granting Abad the power to exercise policy oversight over the CHEd.

According to Camilo Montessa, DepEd assistant secretary for legal affairs, Abad would have the power to ensure "faithful execution of the laws" as well as the power of policy oversight.

President Arroyo justified her order to Abad by citing Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution, which provides that "the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that all laws are faithfully executed."

Corrected books still have same mistakes, claims whistle-blower

By Alcuin Papa

AT LEAST 24 grade school textbooks found to be riddled with errors should be pulled out and corrected, the whistle-blower who discovered the mistakes said.

Antonio Calipjo Go, academic supervisor at Marian School in Quezon City, said issuing correction booklets for the textbooks used in private grade schools was not sufficient to correct the errors. The textbooks were published by Phoenix Publishing House Inc.

Go told the INQUIRER the publishing company's issuance of correction booklets only bolstered his claim that the books contained at least 700 errors.

Go recently discovered major errors in the books "Simply Science in the Next Century" and "Harnessing English Arts Today," both published by Phoenix for this school year. He said the titles of the books themselves were erroneous.

Errors of context

"The issuance of correction booklets for these two books means it is true that these textbooks have defects. Besides, you cannot correct the mistakes by simply issuing a correction booklet because these mistakes are of context as well as content," Go said in reaction to Phoenix's statement on Friday that the company would be distributing correction booklets for the two books.

Last year, Go discovered major errors in an Asian history book used in the public schools. The textbook "Asya Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap" was subsequently pulled out and corrected by the Department of Education. But Go said the textbook still contained minor errors.

Reacting to Phoenix's claim that it had not received any "adverse comments" from over 200 schools using the two books, Go said "that only means teachers and administrators in those 200 schools did not see the errors. They presumed the facts in these books are correct when actually, they are incorrect."

English experts

In a statement, Phoenix said the two textbooks were "voluntarily submitted" for evaluation to the National Book Development Board (NBDB) in February.

The NBDB, the government agency tasked to evaluate textbooks used in private schools, assigned the evaluation of the two books to three English experts from the Ateneo de Manila Department of English and from the National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development (NISMED) of the University of the Philippines.

"First of all, it is not plausible and believable for a publisher to take a finished product to the NBDB directly to be evaluated. No publisher will do that," Go said, adding that based on the new rules of the NBDB, publishers could not present their books for evaluation unless there was a complaint lodged against the book by a teacher, parent, student or concerned citizen.

School would use books

He said Phoenix brought the books to the NBDB after he complained about errors in the two books as early as November 2004.

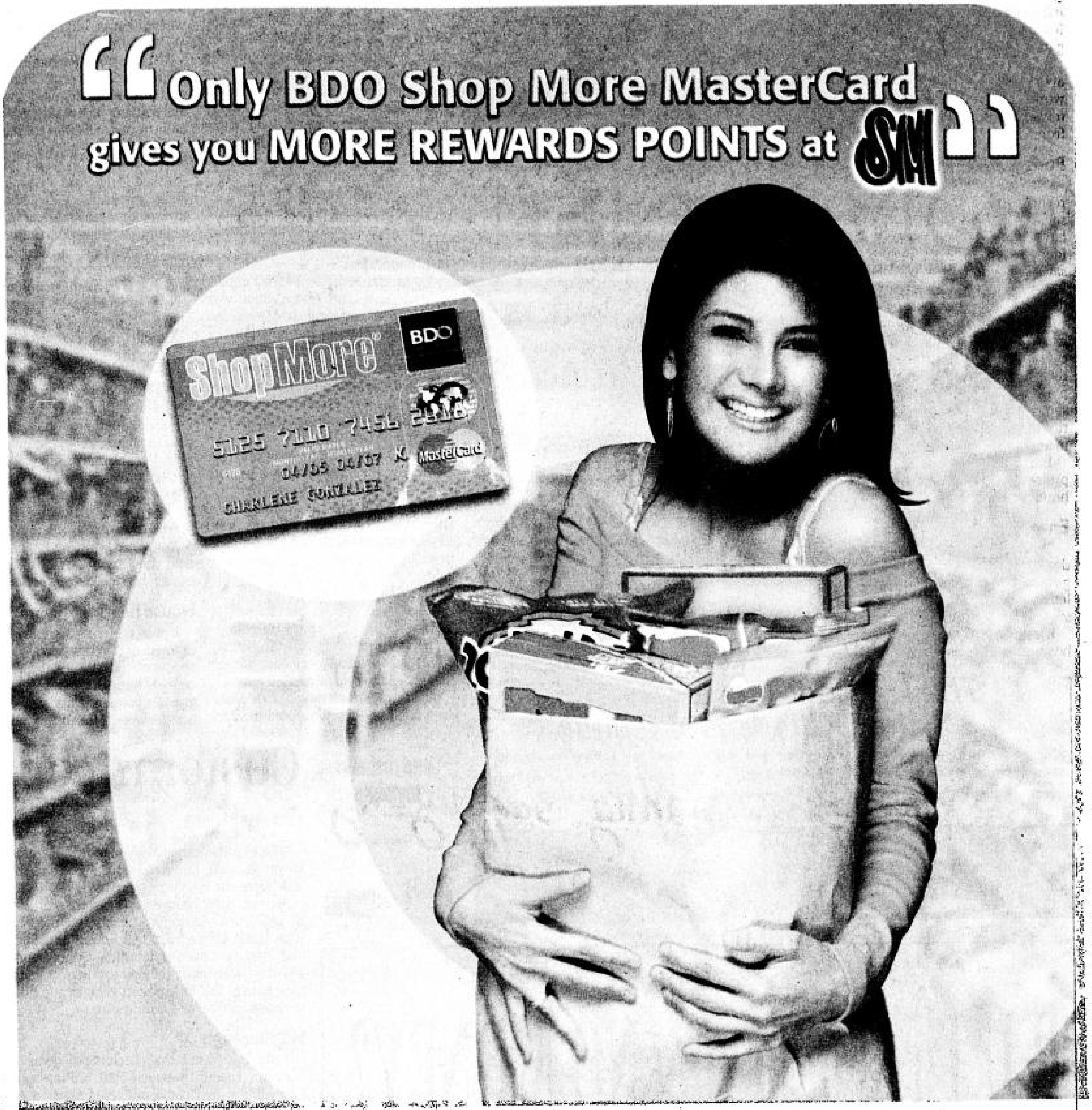
But Go wondered how experts from NISMED and the Ateneo failed to see the errors.

"This only means these experts sanitized these books despite the errors I saw," he said.

In a letter to the NBDB dated June 6, Go confirmed that Phoenix submitted various textbooks to him for evaluation in the hope that Go's school would adopt the books.

Upon discovery of the errors in the books, he informed the publisher of his findings. In turn, the company sent four members of its staff to see Go at his office on Feb. 7, 2005.

The four Phoenix staff members, Go recalled, presented him with copies of the two books and assured him that the errors had been corrected. He however still found the same errors, he said.



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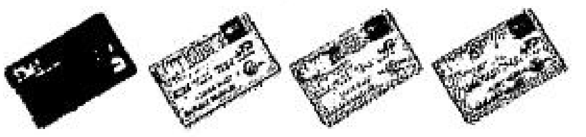

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Wife says Garcillano still in the country

From page A1

it focused only on the President and Commissioner Garcillano?" she asked.

Tatad asserted that from Kota Kinabalu, Garcillano was expected to take a connecting flight to the United States, and claimed the former poll official left so he would not implicate Ms Arroyo in the tape scandal.

Despite lengthy efforts, the INQUIRER could not locate either Garcillano or Ebdane yesterday or confirm Tatad's report that the pair flew out of Cagayan de Oro for the Malaysian city at 4 p.m. on Saturday, on a Learjet.

A check with an airport source said the name "Hermogenes Ebdane" appeared on the records of a Philippine Airlines flight that flew from the Centennial Terminal for Cagayan de Oro at 5:10 a.m. Saturday.

A private jet did leave the Lumbia airport in Cagayan de Oro at 4:42 p.m. on Saturday with six people aboard but it was headed for Manila, according to flight records obtained by the INQUIRER.

A duty officer at the Air Transportation Office (ATO) at the Lumbia airport said RP-C1426, a private jet belonging to Subic Air, arrived at Lumbia at 4:29 p.m. and left for Manila 13 minutes later.

The plane's manifest bore the names of its crew and passengers, including Capt. AB Santos, 1st Officer CS Comia, flight mechanic PJ Salcepuedes, a certain BD Hasalla, FV Cayaco and MV Gorgonio.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said he had no knowledge of Garcillano's and Ebdane's whereabouts.

"That sounds like a wild charge. We'll not engage Senator Tatad on such a wild charge," Bunye told the INQUIRER.

Ebdane could not be reached for comment.

An INQUIRER reporter called Ebdane on his mobile phone yesterday afternoon. Initially, someone put it on answer mode but did not speak.

Then the call was cut off.

The INQUIRER redialed Ebdane's number several times, but the phone by then had either been turned off or had no network signal.

Tatad claimed the alleged departure of Garcillano with Ebdane was "an obvious attempt to cover the crimes described in the now-famous Arroyo-Garcillano tape."

Tatad said that according to what he called "independent sources," Garcillano was also accompanied by his wife, Grace, when he and Ebdane left Cagayan de Oro.

He said the Learjet was supplied by Subic Air which, he said, was owned by "Arroyo cronies," among others.

"He (Garcillano) has obviously kidnapped himself, so he would not have to talk against Ms Arroyo," Tatad said in a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER.

Hush-hush

Tatad said it was not known if Ebdane would accompany Garcillano on his supposed flight to the United States, where an adopted daughter of the Garcillanos purportedly lives.

"In all this, Malacañang cannot evade responsibility. They have tried to keep everything hush-hush ... Everything will unravel in the end," Tatad said.

"Ebdane's participation in Garcillano's getaway confirms Malacanang's hand in everything," Tatad further alleged.

Ebdane is a former chief of the Philippine National Police and national security adviser. He was one of those whose names were mentioned by Garcillano in the controversial tape.

Garcillano was earlier reported by an INQUIRER informant to have gone to his farm in Baungon, Bukidnon, before traveling to Cagayan de Oro, where he was said to have checked in at Conchita Hotel.

"I have no information on where [Garcillano] is," was Bunye's reply when asked in a radio interview if Malacañang knew the whereabouts of the former election commissioner.

GMA's focus

Asked if the Palace was doing anything to locate Garcillano, Bunye stressed that the President was putting emphasis on governing the country.

"The President is doing everything that needs to be done as president and that is to fix the economy, as well as to implement the reforms she has started," Bunye said.

Garcillano has denied it was his voice on the disputed tape. Ms Arroyo has refused direct comment and accused her foes of trying to destabilize her administration.

Asked whether Garcillano's disappearance or reappearance would pose a problem to the President, Bunye said only that Ms Arroyo remained focused on her work and that the latter was to leave for Hong Kong today to woo investors.

Bunye also said he intended to attend the House inquiry tomorrow to explain his side in the tape controversy.

House hearing

It was the press secretary who first exposed earlier this month an alleged opposition plot to destabilize the government through the release of an audio tape purportedly carrying a conversation between Ms Arroyo and an unnamed election official to rig the May 2004 polls.

Not everyone was apparently looking for Garcillano.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the lead House committee which plans to inquire into the authenticity of the so-called "Gloriagate" audio tape, said the former poll commissioner could make himself scarce for now.

"Officially, Mr. Garcillano has not yet been summoned by the House of Representatives," said Remulla, chair of the House committee on public information which, along with four other committees, will try to untangle starting tomorrow the mystery behind the wiretapped conversations.

Remulla said the appearance of Garcillano was not yet crucial to the initial hearing.

"He would be [needed] more on the content [of the audio tape], but we're not yet talking about it," said Remulla, stressing that this week's marathon hearings would first "establish the circumstances surrounding the appearance of the tape before inquiring into its contents."

Bunye and National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco will be the first people to be called by the House.

Final draft

"He (Bunye) will be asked what actions did he take which led to the release of the recordings," said Remulla.

Ex-NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong and lawyer Alan Paguia are scheduled to appear on Wednesday, to be followed on Thursday by Rear Adm. Tirso Danga and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Ong has claimed he has four "master tapes" containing the original taped conversations allegedly between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano.

Remulla said Ms Arroyo would not be summoned by the House as this would violate the constitutional principle on the separation of the legislative and executive branches.

He said a letter asking Ms Arroyo to comment on the tape would be sent to Malacañang today. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

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Customs cop chief faces ...

From page A1

The INQUIRER called Yuchongco at his home to get his side, but was told that he and his wife were out.

Earlier, RIPS charged two sisters working at the BOC—Customs Operation Officer 5 Ana Marie Concepcion-Maglasang and Special Deputy Collector Matilda Concepcion-Millare—with graft for owning luxury vehicles, houses and lots in posh villages and other assets way beyond their means.

Hillsborough

RIPS has found that Yuchongco owns a mansion costing between P20 million and P30 million in Hillsborough Subdivision in Muntinlupa City; another piece of real estate in San Jose, Batangas; and a 7,210-square-meter coconut plantation in Oas, Albay.

The assets, authorities said, were not disclosed in Yuchongco's Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth.

According to the draft complaint, Yuchongco went abroad more than 10 times from 1995 to 2004, visiting Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, the United States and Europe.

RIPS said it got confirmation from the Bureau of Immigration that each of the three Yuchongco children was able to travel outside the Philippines at least 13 times and his wife twice a year from April 1995 to May 2004. The trips were mostly to Hong Kong and the United States.

Graft charges

Charges to be filed against Yuchongco include violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (Republic Act No. 3019), Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (RA 6713), Revised Penal Code for not properly declaring all his assets, and Executive Order No. 6 of 1986, which requires government workers to declare all their foreign trips.

The frequency of the foreign travels of Yuchongco, his wife and children (who were all minors during most of the trips) further makes suspect Yuchongco's real net worth and actual sources of income, according to RIPS.

"We can't be shy about battling corruption. The DOF has to pursue aggressively the filing of such charges against corrupt government workers to finally stamp out this problem," Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan, head of RIPS, said in an interview.

Ownership transferred

RIPS said Yuchongco had been subjected to an investigation by the BOC and the Office of the Ombudsman in the 1990s because of his "ownership" of the Hillsborough mansion in Muntinlupa. He was, however, cleared of the corruption charges after he presented a certification from the local government of Muntinlupa that he was not the owner of the mansion.

"But the Ombudsman before based the decision only on the certification, and did not dig deeper into the case. Now we have unearthed new documents saying that he is really the owner of the mansion," a RIPS investigator said.

RIPS said it obtained a document from the Registry of Deeds and a real property tax document showing that Yuchongco was the original owner of the Hillsborough mansion, which was bought in 1993.

The ownership of the property was transferred to a sibling of Yuchongco in 1995, it said, alleging that the transfer was made only as a defensive move amid the investigations in the 1990s.

Lotto 6/42

The anticorruption unit noted that Yuchongco declared he won in November 1996 some P3.3 million from the Lotto 6/42 game of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

RIPS said the declaration could have been made by Yuchongco to justify some of his assets and foreign travels. It found irregularities in the declaration.

It said Yuchongco jointly won the lotto prize with a certain Milagros Socorro Matias and should have declared a prize of only at least a million pesos.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima earlier said the DOF was committed to filing corruption charges against erring government officials and employees once every two weeks under the RIPS, and that his office would convince the public about the seriousness of its campaign.

He said the RIPS was part of his department's three-pronged approach to fight the culture of dishonesty, and to raise more revenues for the fiscally troubled government. The two other programs are the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) and the Run After Smugglers (RATS), under which tax evasion and smuggling charges are likewise regularly filed.

Big fish

Reacting to comments that the DOF campaign would not cover "big fish," Purisima said the public just had to be patient.

"We will not stop until we have cleansed our revenue agencies of hoodlums. We will work closely with the Ombudsman to make sure we progress quickly toward conviction," Purisima said.

Last week, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the DOF filed tax evasion charges against Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap.

For his part, Bonoan said the government's anticorruption drive within revenue-collecting agencies had started to bear fruit.

He cited a survey by Social Weather Stations, which found that the number of respondents who said they experienced being asked for bribes by workers from the BIR declined from 52 percent in 2000 to 32 percent this year.

Bonoan also noted a survey finding that the BOC, which he said was commonly seen as the most corrupt government agency, was actually perceived by the public as the seventh most corrupt public office.

"This is an indication that we are making headway in our anticorruption drive, and that people are starting to become confident about our efforts," he said.

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WIND power is Ilocos Norte's answer to the shortage and high cost of electricity. These 23-story turbines will not pollute the environment besides. PDI PHOTO

Wind blows Ilocos Norte onto power map

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANGUI, Ilocos Norte—Towering on a strip of shoreline along Bangui Bay are wind turbines that have started generating "clean power" for the province of Ilocos Norte under the Philippines' first wind farm.

The wind farm will feed an initial 7 megawatts (MW) to the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative (Inec), equivalent to 40 percent of the province's power requirement.

A first in Southeast Asia, the wind power plant is composed of 15 turbines, each standing 70 meters or equal to the height of a 23-story building. The wind farm can generate a maximum capacity of 25 MW.

"Tapping abundant wind resources in the country's vast coastlines is a significant stride in an environment-sensitive, clean-and-green energy program for the Philippines," said Niels Jacobsen, a Danish investor and president of Northwind Power Development Corp. (NWPDC).

The firm's officials led Philippine energy officials and national and local leaders in a ceremonial switch-on on Saturday of the Northwind Bangui Bay Project along a 3-km shoreline in Barangay Baruyen facing the South China Sea.

Luzon grid

The turbines, all connected to the Luzon power grid, began delivering power to Inec last month.

"As stated in our energy sales agreement, we will extend a 7-percent discount (lower than National Transmission Corp. rates) to Inec. This will reduce the power charges being paid by Ilocos residents," said lawyer Ferdinand Dumlao, NWPDC chair.

Dumlao said the firm would put up five wind turbines next year to generate 8 MW of electricity and meet 50 percent of Ilocos Norte's power requirement.

Inec, which has a total power requirement of 26 MW, will continue buying its remaining energy demand from Transco.

Model for country

Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said the country's first wind power plant would serve as a model for more renewable energy sources around the Philippines.

"Ilocos Norte has always been at the end of the supply line (when it comes to power delivery). With the operation of this plant, we look forward to being at the other end of the supply line and avoid the difficulties that we had in the past," he said.

Marcos' mother, former first lady Imelda Marcos, attended the affair to support her son.

"I congratulate my son. He always surprises me. He continues to impress me. I think he is following the great footsteps of his father," Mrs. Marcos said.

"What we need now is energy that is environmentally friendly. The Philippines has no reason to be poor. We've got it all," she said.

Wind power

The wind farm should have started commercial operations early this year but bad weather prevented the firm's technical staff from landing their equipment at Bangui Bay. Most of the turbine materials were shipped from Denmark.

This windswept town was found to be one of three areas in Northern Luzon and of nine other islands and inner corridors across the country that can produce up to 70,000 MW of power.

"The wind is [normally] too strong out here. You don't see it today, but this is one of the very rare days when there is virtually no wind," said Jacobsen, as the rotor blades made a sluggish swirl on Saturday.

The wind in the Bangui coast blows at a speed of 7 meters per second (mps). A wind mapping study conducted by the United States National Renewable Energy Laboratory has found Bangui Bay to be one of the areas across the country where 10,000-sq km of windy land exist with good to excellent wind resource potential.

First in RP

The NWPDC, composed of Filipino and Danish businessmen and engineers, led the way in setting up the environmentally friendly and economical source of power in response to the government's call to establish new and renewable sources of energy.

Former Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said the Bangui wind farm is a big step toward energy independence while the Philippines is targeting to reach a 60-percent self-sufficiency in energy generation by 2010 by promoting wind power.

"We are on our way to making the Philippines a leader in wind power [in Asia]. Let it not be forgotten that the epicenter of that goal started on the sandy shores of Ilocos [Norte]," Perez said.

After the wind farm in Bangui, 16 other areas will be offered up for investment with a total capacity of 345 MW.

The Philippines has been found to have potential wind power of 76,600 MW, leading other wind power-producing countries like Germany (14,000 MW potential wind power), Spain and the US (6,000 MW each), Denmark (3,000 MW) and India (2,100 MW).

2 oil firms hike pump prices

SHORTLY after three oil firms raised their pump prices, refiner Petron Corp. and new oil player Eastern Petroleum Corp. followed suit and increased their gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices also by 50 centavos per liter.

The price adjustment by Eastern took effect at noon yesterday while Petron's kicked in at 12:01 a.m. today.

On Saturday, Total (Philippines) Corp. jacked up its fuel prices by 50 centavos. Later in the day, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. also raised their pump prices by the same amount.

Over a week ago, oil companies increased gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by 50 centavos a liter, citing escalating prices of oil in the world market.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the regional benchmark Dubai crude climbed to an average of $49.66 a barrel in the first 16 days of June, up by more than $4 from the May average of $45.40 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products soared to $57.81 a barrel in the June 1-16 period, more than $3 higher than the $54.46-a-barrel average posted last month. *Abigail L. Ho*

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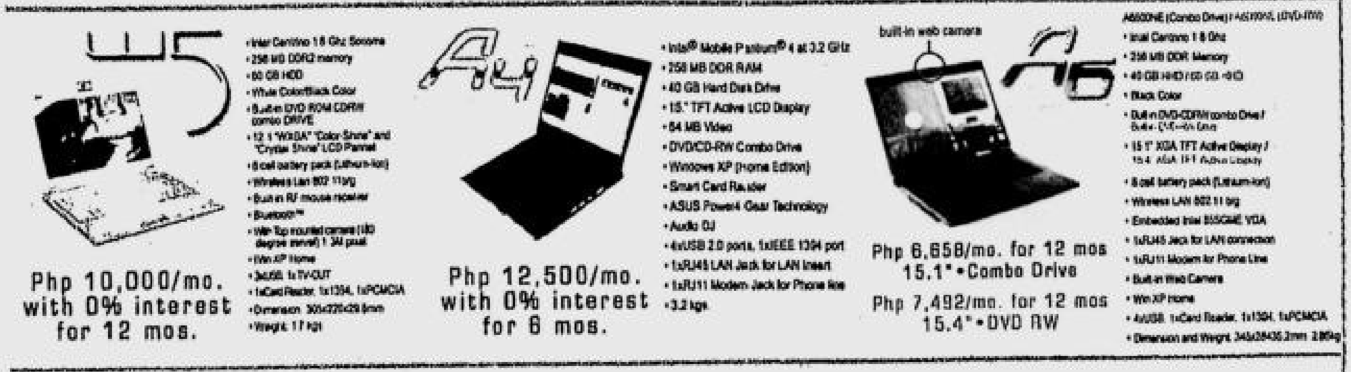

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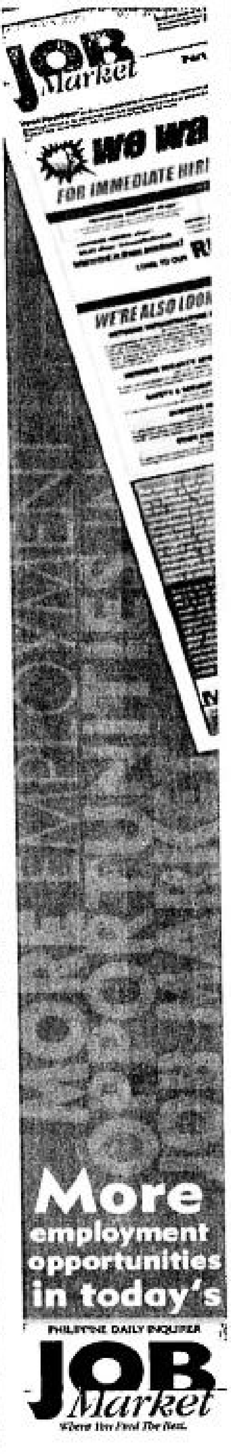

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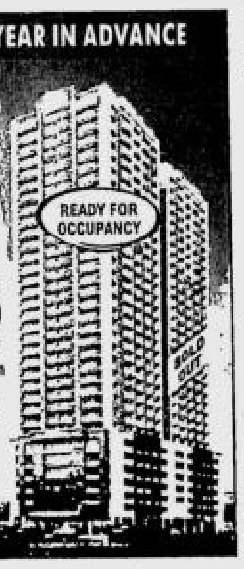

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

EU leaders battle over bloc's future

BRUSSELS—European leaders, their veil of unity shredded in an unprecedented EU summit catastrophe at the weekend, have commenced a bare-knuckles battle over the future course of the 25-nation bloc.

Ingrained continental hatreds were laid bare as a European Union summit on long-term financing collapsed in the early hours of Saturday.

Poisonous recriminations flew as leaders split into two camps, blaming each other for the summit's failure to reach a deal on the 2007-2013 budget, worth about 100 billion euros a year.

The summit had been meant to move the bloc forward after French and Dutch voters rejected a first-ever EU constitution, humiliating the leadership into putting the treaty on hold.

Instead, the EU seemed to come to a full stop.

"People will tell you next that Europe is not in a crisis," Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, who holds the EU presidency, said as the summit disintegrated in acrimony.

"It is in a deep crisis."

Far from bridging a credibility gap between the European bureaucracy and its citizens, the summit exposed deeply antagonistic visions of the EU future among the leaders themselves.

"During this budgetary debate there were two conceptions of Europe that clashed and will always clash," said Juncker.

"There are those who, in fact without saying it, want the big market and nothing but the big market—a high level free trade zone—and those that want a politically integrated Europe," he said.

"I have felt for a long time this debate would blow up one day." Britain, which takes over the EU presidency July 1, sneered at the big-Europe vision.

"It is essentially a division between whether you want a European Union that is able to cope with the future or whether you want a European Union that is trapped in the past," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said.

"That is the fundamental change before us. And it is not one Europe can dodge," he told the BBC.

A resolution to the budget had been blocked, notably by Britain's refusal to bow to demands by the other 24 EU members that it at least freeze a rebate it receives from the EU, worth 5.3 billion euros last year.

The rebate is projected to grow to an average 7.1 billion euros annually between 2007 and 2013.

But British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who now faces the mammoth task of leading his colleagues for the next six months as EU president from July 1, denied being isolated at the summit.

"We were not alone at the table," said Blair.

The British leader had insisted that negotiations on the EU's budget-consuming farm subsidy system, which favors France, be reopened before he would consider curbing the British rebate.

"In reality we were close to an agreement," said French President Jacques Chirac. "I deplore the fact that the United Kingdom refused to contribute a reasonable and equitable share of the expenses of enlargement. *AFP*

AN INDONESIAN girl prepares to perform a traditional Betawi dance as part of Jakarta's 478th anniversary celebrations at the Jakarta Fairground in Kemayoran June 19. REUTERS

Asia still in ruin 6 months after deadly tsunami

By Dean Yates

CALANG, Indonesia—Six months after the Indian Ocean tsunami, the west coast of Indonesia's Aceh province remains a scene of utter devastation, a vast swathe of land stripped of villages, trees and plantations.

Where there were once idyllic beaches, mangroves and settlements, there is now scoured earth. In many places salt water lies in once fertile rice fields now devoid of farmers.

Around the Indian Ocean rim, the tsunami caused widespread damage to the environment and experts say it will take years, if not generations, to recover. Even now, a full picture of the damage is only just emerging.

Coral reefs, mangroves, beaches, plantations and coastal farms have been damaged or destroyed in at least six nations.

North of Sumatra Island, India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands were particularly hard hit, the landscape twisted and tilted by the 9.15 magnitude quake that caused the tsunami.

The tectonic forces unleashed by the quake lifted northern parts of the island chain out of the sea, while much of the south sank. The giant waves after the quake were a cruel second blow.

Up to 60 square km of reef flats have been exposed and killed, said Harry Andrews of wildlife group Madras Crocodile Bank.

"In middle and north Andaman, the land has come up more than 1 meter, 1.2 meters. The reefs are all dead, giant clams, eels, sea cucumbers, star fish, everything is dead."

Mangroves now stand out of the water. "Most of the mangroves are dying in north Andaman ... but this regenerates," he said.

In the southern Nicobars, much of the coral has been buried under debris and several beaches that were once the nesting sites of the endangered leatherback turtles have been destroyed, pushing the animal closer to extinction.

Andrews says the corals will start to regenerate in a couple of years but it will take much longer for the archipelago, one of richest for corals in the world, to achieve the same level of diversity they had before the tsunami.

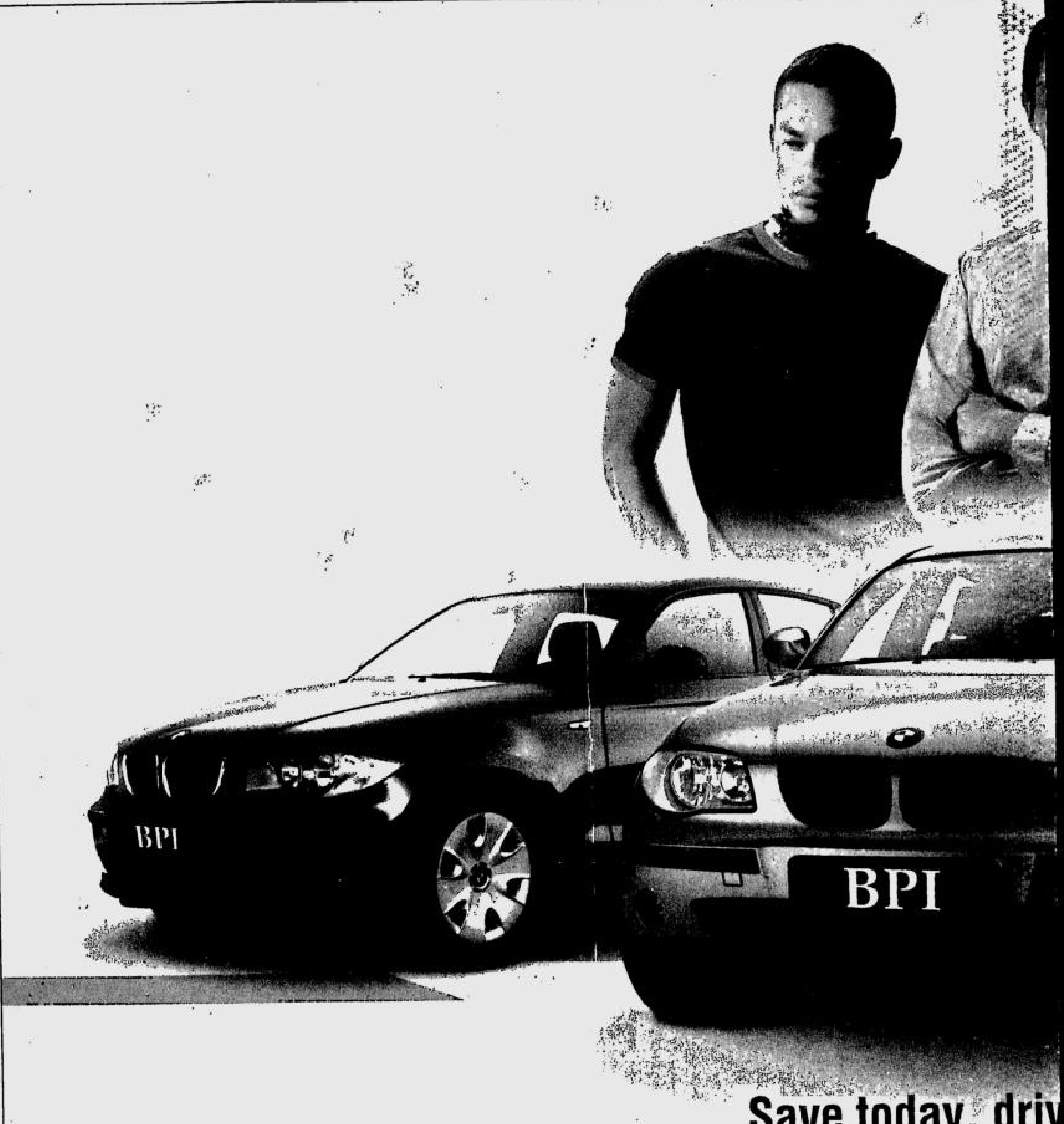
In Thailand, the job of clearing rubbish and debris from prime reefs off Phi Phi, Similan and Surin islands—ranked among the best dive spots in the world—is nearly complete.

A government marine survey found only 13 percent of 174 sites had been severely affected.

"Those places that were badly hit will be closed for a few years and that will allow the coral to recover naturally," said Niphon Phongsuwan, a coral reef biologist at the Phuket Marine Biological Centre.

In a bid to ease stress on natural coral reefs, Niphon said a series of artificial reefs are being built along the Andaman Sea coast. The plan involves sinking concrete blocks into the seabed and transplanting coral salvaged from tsunami-hit reefs.

In the Maldives, too, coral reefs seemed to have suffered only minor damage, experts say. Pollution has emerged as the biggest threat to the chain of low-lying atolls. *Reuters*



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Indian women fight back against rape epidemic

NEW DELHI—For years, rape victims in India were too afraid to speak out, traumatized by the assault and fearful they would be blamed themselves. Many don't trust the police.

Now, they are learning to fight back.

Rattled by a series of brutal rapes across the country, almost 3,000 women from 15 to 50 packed into a park in the Indian capital last weekend for self-defense classes that included elements of judo, karate and taekwondo.

"Women have enough weapons on their body," said Vimla Mehra, joint commissioner in the Delhi Police women's crime squad. "We teach them techniques for self-defense that make use of things like their nails and elbows."

The class was so popular, more are planned.

Apart from self-defense classes, many are turning to new weapons such as pepper spray to protect themselves.

Especially popular is a non-toxic spray called Knockout, which causes uncontrollable sneezing, coughing and an intense burning pain.

Although India is famed as an ancient civilization and the homeland of Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of non-violence, crime against women is commonplace.

Molestation, especially on crowded public transport, is rampant, particularly in northern India. Activists say there are two rapes every hour across the country.

Instead of providing protection, the police are sometimes the perpetrators. Last month, a constable in Bombay was arrested for raping a teenager on Marine Drive, the famous sea-hugging road in India's financial capital.

Victims often face social ostracism and are even blamed for rape—village elders recently forced one to "marry" her rapist, her own father-in-law.

A recent survey by the India Today magazine showed one in every two women in leading cities felt unsafe and more than one in three was skeptical of police handling of cases.

"The system works against the victim," said Aatreiyer Sen, assistant director of the Human Rights Law Network. "It's a very cumbersome system and not a very sensitive system."

Activists say one in every five victims is a child and 19 of 20 accused walk free. Official figures show more than 18,100 people were tried for rape in 2003. Just 4,645 were convicted.

Some critics say women are to blame for rapes, especially if they wear tight jeans or revealing tops.

"It's a daily nuisance for us. Harassment is rampant—whether while traveling in a bus or while walking through an isolated area," Priyanka Gupta, a Delhi-based sales executive, told the Hindustan Times.

"I don't feel switching from jeans to salwar-kameez (a loose shirt and trouser) will change men's attitude toward women, as far as crimes like rape and molestation are concerned." *Reuters*

Camera phones steal show in Asia telecom fair

SINGAPORE—Smile, you're on candid telephone!

Digital camera-equipped mobile phones that can take high-quality pictures and video clips stole the show at CommunicAsia, the region's largest telecom fair, which drew thousands of industry players to Singapore last week.

With sharper optics, bigger memory, music playback and high-speed data transfer, mobile phones have become powerful multi-media devices, creating new revenue streams for handset manufacturers and telecom operators.

"Camera phones are becoming more and more an essential feature for consumers," Aloysius Choong, lead analyst for mobile phones at research house IDC, told AFP. "Mobile phone makers have identified the need."

For operators, camera phones drive up average revenue per consumer as users are charged a premium for image data transmission, on top of already lucrative earnings from voice and Short Message Service (SMS) charges.

A camera phone can now be had for around $200. With prices falling, for many younger Asians a plain mobile phone without a camera is not even worth checking out.

7 megapixels

Peter Ang, senior manager for product marketing at Sony Ericsson, said eight of the company's 10 new phone models unveiled so far this year in the Asia-Pacific region outside Japan sport integrated cameras.

"Nowadays about 65 percent of Sony Ericsson's consumers are choosing phones with cameras in them, which shows that there is significant demand for phones to be used as imaging tools," he said.

South Korea's Samsung has stunned the telecom and photographic industries alike by introducing a phone capable of taking pictures as large as seven megapixels—more powerful than many digital cameras.

"There is a bit of a debate about whether camera phones can replace digital cameras (among consumers)," said IDC analyst Choong. "It's not happening in a big way, but it's starting to happen."

Even large picture files can now be transmitted with relative ease through third-generation (3G) and General Packet Radio Services (GPRS) systems.

"Camera phones are a strategic business focus and we believe that the camera is becoming a basic feature of mobile phones," said Christian Collins, senior manager for overseas marketing at Samsung's mobile communication division.

Nokia spokesperson Dinesh Subramaniam said that this year, the camera phone market "will grow to be over four times the size of the digital camera market."

"Some of the fastest-growing markets in Asia for camera phones are India, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia," he added.

The increasing popularity of camera phones, however, is raising security and privacy concerns in this age of terrorism and cyber-sex.

Security, privacy concerns

The phones can be used for surveillance of potential targets of attack, prompting foreign embassies, government agencies and military bases in Asia to ban visitors or even staff from bringing them in.

Obscene or embarrassing pictures of unsuspecting persons can easily be spread to the public.

In Australia, some local authorities have banned mobile phone cameras from gym changing rooms and swimming pools.

Last December a 25-year-old man was convicted of offensive behavior for snapping topless women at a Sydney beach. He was fined $380 and the court ordered the phone camera destroyed.

In Thailand, national police spokesperson Maj. Gen. Chatchawal Suksomjit said that "for sensitive areas including airports, foreign embassies or other places where security is an issue, we have placed signs forbidding cameras."

In New Delhi, visitors including journalists are not allowed to carry camera phones into the Indian parliament, defense headquarters, foreign ministry, key government offices and foreign embassies. *AFP*

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OPINION

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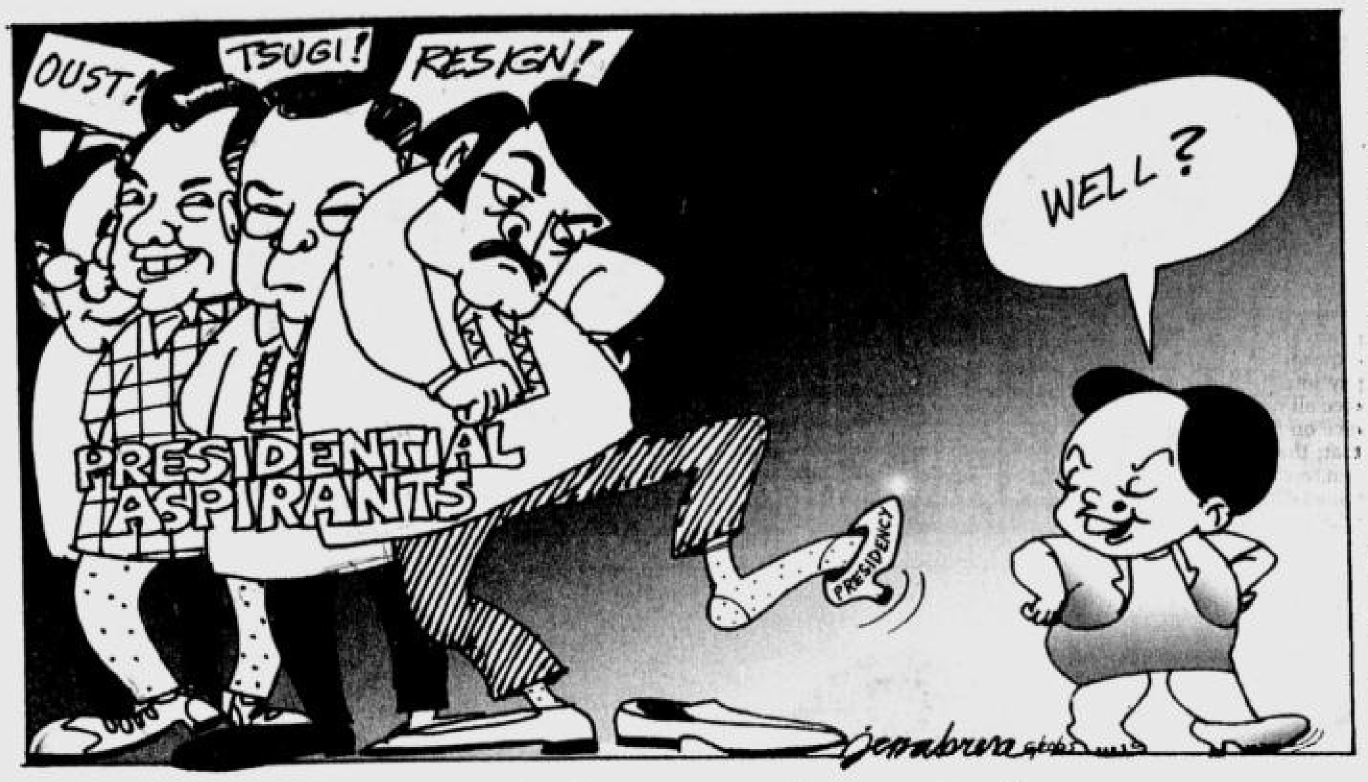
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In aid of legislation

EDITORIAL

THE CONGRESSIONAL inquiry into the controversial audio tapes begins tomorrow. We understand that many in the administration coalition still bear misgivings about the whole enterprise. But an investigation "in aid of legislation" was inevitable; better to get the circus started sooner rather than later.

A circus it will definitely be. A high-wire act, lumbering beasts jumping through flaming hoops, sharpened knives and practiced sword-swallowers: There will be more than enough to catch our attention.

And yet for all that, we do believe that if handled adroitly (there's the juggling part), this legislative investigation may yet live up to the expectations of the Constitution. For once, a controversial inquiry in aid of legislation may actually result in necessary, even urgent, new law.

But first, let's get some false issues out of the way.

The fact that the hearings on the alleged taped conversations will take place in the House, rather in the Senate, is of no moment to the public. Some senators will miss the klieg lights of yet another scandal-driven investigation, but the public really doesn't care. All it wants is for the investigation itself to be credible. If the House inquiry—the joint work of five different committees, chaired by congressmen bound only nominally by membership in the ruling coalition—is ultimately perceived as tough but fair, in the very same way the public received the Senate blue ribbon hearings on *jueteng* in 2000, then the committees will have done the country a real service.

The phrasing of the invitation to the President is also not as crucial as some congressmen would like to think. The attempt to limit the discussion only to President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement assigning blame to the opposition is parliamentary fig leaf of the slenderest sort. Any such agreement will be ripped apart in no time at all. One issue, to paraphrase the famous question from the US Senate hearings on Watergate, is simple enough: What did the President say, and when did she say it? Whether the administration likes it or not, the authenticity of the alleged recordings will be a subject of intense discussion.

But only "a" subject, only one issue. The five committees must not spend all their 15 minutes of fame on determining the authenticity of the tapes. They must channel some of the national attention they will generate, and some of the public outrage, if any, to fixing the system that the tapes suggest is very badly broken indeed.

We are hoping that the hearings will actually focus on election reform.

When the President announced on Dec. 30, 2002 that she would not run for a full term, she mentioned three overriding political goals she had set for herself in the last 18 months of her presidency. After "strengthening the economy" and "healing the deep divisions within our society," she emphasized election reform: "working for clean and honest elections in 2004."

On Jan. 9, 2003, at the traditional New Year's reception for the diplomatic community, she repeated her three goals, elaborating on each. This time, she phrased her third objective in superlative terms: "And I expect to see the cleanest and most orderly elections at the end of my term. During that election period, the time I would have wasted on political debate if I were a candidate will instead be spent on continuing our programs of reform and recovery up to the last minute of my presidency."

By a twist of fate, perhaps knotted and then pulled by the same providence that she said had put her in office, the country is once again wasting its time on political debate. This time, however, the opportunity exists to actually strengthen the democratic project by understanding exactly how wholesale poll fraud is committed, and then by legislating the necessary remedies.

In other words, and to use a familiar expression, Congress has the chance to make an honest woman of the President. This may not be the way she envisioned her role in reforming the election system, but—how does that famous religious saying go again?—God writes straight with crooked lines.

Loren and the Garci-Barci show

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THERE is one easy, sure, simple and acceptable way to disprove the charge that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in the 2004 elections. Even if the tapes were authentic, they would not prove beyond reasonable doubt that GMA indeed cheated in the polls. As Randy David said on television, the tapes could be interpreted two ways: the friendly way and the hostile way.

In the friendly way, it could be read as an innocent conversation wherein a candidate was inquiring as to how she was faring in the counting—although it is unethical and, perhaps, illegal for any candidate to be talking to a Comelec commissioner during such a crucial time in the counting. In the hostile way, one could read between the lines and interpret the exchange as plotting to cheat. Conspirators don't have to be specific and detailed when talking to one another. They understand one another perfectly.

There is only one way to prove that the Gloria-Garci talks did not result in cheating. And that is to open the ballot boxes, beginning with those from the places mentioned in the tapes. If the recount shows that GMA won "fair and square" in those places (as a Malacañang press release quoted her, although nobody heard her say those words), it will prove she did not cheat even if those conversations did take place. Even assuming that GMA and Garci did plan to cheat, maybe it was not done anymore because she had gotten enough votes. So she committed no poll fraud.

If I were GMA and I know I didn't cheat, I would ask the Presidential Electoral Tribunal to recount the votes in those places to remove any doubt as to my victory. And I will tell my lawyers not to use any dilatory tactics. The sooner the recount is finished, the better.

That is, if I did not cheat. But if I know I cheated, or my people cheated for me, why, I would use every means, fair or foul, to prevent or delay a recount. So we will know if GMA cheated or not by what she will do in the next few days.

Keeping silent on the tapes, refusing to say whether or not she is the "ma'am" talking there, will not save her. The Filipinos are not as stupid as those who advised her to keep silent. By this time, people must have already concluded that she is guilty, because otherwise, she would have immediately denied that she was the "ma'am" giving orders in the tape. But, maybe, she does not want to make the denial because a voice analysis might prove she's lying—again. So she has chosen not say anything, one way or the other, giving ridiculous excuses that only make her sound pathetic. And guilty. Silence is interpreted as an admission of guilt.

Stubborn silence and silly excuses will only delay the inevitable. The pressure for her to step down will continue because her actions make her look guilty. Because it is her legitimacy that is under question. Unless she can prove otherwise—and the way to do that is through a recount—people will continue believing they were robbed of the rightful president.

The right way is to tell the truth. Being honest is never wrong. If she was the "ma'am," in the tape, she must admit it, and say that she meant no wrong, and then ask for forgiveness. Keeping silent is the wrong way.

Even if she doesn't say anything, GMA has already confessed. An admission will only be a formality.

***

As soon as she arrived from the United States early Friday morning, vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda invited me and five other friends to lunch at her house the same day. She wanted to know what was happening here.

After the dramatic events were recounted to her, she was asked what she would do if she were the President. She agreed with what I have written above and with the proposition that the Presidential Electoral Tribunal has a responsibility to remove any doubts as to who are the elected officials—so that the destabilization tremors will stop. And to remove the uncertainty on succession, she said, the PET should also speed up the resolution of her poll protest against Vice President Noli de Castro.

"But I do not have a moist eye for the presidency," she quickly added.

"If the recount will show that Noli won fair and square, I will accept it. I expect the same attitude from him. But let's speed up the process for the sake of the nation."

She said if she wins in the recount, she will be content with being vice president, that is if GMA does not step down, and she will not try to push her off.

She said that "we should give the President due process. Like everybody else, she is entitled to it."

But if she knows she did something wrong, Loren added, she should be a statesman and admit it, step down and save the nation the trauma of another impeachment trial. The people will love her for that. The nation is bleeding, and a long drawn-out stalemate will make it bleed more.

GMA's silence only prolongs the agony. The question of legitimacy hanging over her should be resolved. There should be a closure to the issue.

***

The gang is breaking up. There is talk that some people are complaining because only one former official is getting most of the blame in the tapes controversy. Media and investigators have forgotten the other half of the Garci and Barci team. Yes, like the TV series Starsky and Hutch police team, and the Pugo and Togo, and Laurel and Hardy comedy teams, there was a Garci and Barci team. The Mindanao operation, it is said, was a Garci and Barci show.

The Garci (presumed to be ex-Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano) "half" has disappeared.

It is not known where the other half of the team is. Nobody has yet tried to locate him because he is not under suspicion.

'Impropriety'

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

YOU grant the conversation in Sammy Ong's tape is between Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Virgilio Garcillano, GMA's allies and some commentators have been saying this past week, what of it? Nothing there compromises the President. Prospero Pichay in particular has gone to town with this line. All the tape shows, he says, is that the President was making sure the Comelec did its job.

My friend Winnie Monsod, who is convinced it is GMA and Garcillano on the tape, herself says she isn't joining the bandwagon to oust GMA. The tape, she said in "Debate" last week, is no basis to call for GMA to resign or be impeached. Sure a President talking to a Comelec official during elections is wrong. But if so, then GMA is only guilty of impropriety.

I beg to disagree. At the very least there is the testimony of Winnie's husband, Christian, about the gravity of the transgression. In an interview on radio, he said: "During my time (as Comelec chair), President Aquino never once called me. If it's just for advice, that's a different thing. I remember in 1992 when Senator Estrada withdrew from the presidential race, he called me and said, 'What is the procedure? How do I withdraw? When is the deadline?' That's a proper question to ask. But to ask about status, about margins (of votes), I don't think that is a question that should be asked by any candidate, particularly by a president, of a Comelec commissioner she appointed."

But GMA called Garcillano about something far more than the election results—assuming, of course, it is GMA and Garcillano talking on the tape, a disclaimer I have to make on behalf of my newspaper, whose editors stand to be named in any libel suit against me. The two of them are in fact engaged in a pact to cheat. I will just identify the speakers below as "GMA" and "Garcillano" rather than "The Voice that Sounds Like GMA" and "The Voice That Sounds Like Garcillano" for purposes of brevity. Feel free to believe it is not them. Feel free as well to get a lobotomy if you do.

I will retain the original Tagalog so the reader can challenge my (almost literal) translation of these exchanges. The line that has now become a popular ring tone; "Hello Garci, will I still lead by more than 1 M?" is part of this:

Garcillano: "Ok Ma'am, mas mataas ho siya (presumably FPJ) pero mag-compensate po sa Lanao yan." (He's leading, but that will be compensated for by Lanao.) GMA: "So I will still lead by more than 1 M overall?" Garcillano: "More or less, it's the advantage Ma'am. Parang ganun din ang lalabas." (That's pretty much how it will turn out.) GMA: "It cannot be less than 1 M?" Garcillano: "**Pipilitin Ma'am natin yan** (emphasis added). (We'll strive to make it so.) As of the other day, 982." GMA: "Kaya nga e." (That's what I'm saying.) Garcillano: "And then if we can get more in Lanao..." GMA: "Hindi pa ba tapos?" (It's not over yet?) Garcillano: "Hindi pa ho, meron pa hong darating na seven municipalities." (Not yet, we're still expecting ballots from seven municipalities.) GMA: "Ah OK, OK."

Another exchange: GMA: "Si Biazon nagbabanta, kung madadaya daw siya papabuksan daw niya yung sa ... at saka Tawi-tawi, eh baka raw ako ang madale doon." (Biazon is warning that if he is cheated he will open the one in... and Tawi-Tawi and it might affect me.) Garcillano: "Baka nga ho." (It's possible.) GMA: "**Hindi kaya pwedeng ma-delay yung senatorial canvassing** until after the voting on the rules tonight? (emphasis added)" (Can't we delay the senatorial canvassing...) Garcillano: "Ah sige po..." (Ok.)

Still another: GMA: "Yung kabila, they're trying to get Namfrel copies of the municipal COCs. (The other side, they're trying...) Garcillano: Namfrel copies? Ay wala naman, okay naman ang Namfrel sa atin, and they are now sympathetic to us. (No problem, Namfrel is OK to us, and...) GMA: "Oo, oo, (garbled) pero yun nga, they are trying to get that." Garcillano: "Oho, we will get an advance copy..."

Still another: GMA: "Dun sa Lanao del Sur at Basilan, di raw nagmamatch ang SOV sa COC." (I hear that in Lanao and Basilan, the SOV and COC do not match.) Garcillano: "Hindi na nag-mamatch? May posibilidad na hindi magmatch kung hindi nila sinunod yung individual SOV ng mga munisipyo. Pero aywan ko lang ho kung sa atin pabor o hindi. **Dun naman sa Basilan at Lanao Sur, ito ho yung ginawa nilang magpataas sa inyo, maayos naman ang paggawa e** (emphasis added).... **Sa Basilan, alam nyo naman ang mga military dun eh, hindi masyadong marunong kasi silang gumawa e** (emphais added)...Kinausap ko na yung chairman ng board sa Sulu, **ang akin, patataguin ko muna ang EO ng Pagundaran para hindi sila makatestigo ho** (emphasis added)." (They don't match? There's a possibility, if they did not follow the individual SOV of the municipalities. I don't know if that favors us or works against us. In the case of Basilan and Lanao Sur, what they did to increase your count they did very well. In Basilan, you know very well the military there does not know how to do things well. I already talked to the board chairman of Sulu; my idea is to make the EO of Pagundaran hide so they can't testify.)

Still another, about a witness to cheating: GMA: "Did you get my text about the Tipo-Tipo?" Garcillano: "Oo Ma'am, that's what I'm fearful about... **We're asking people to look for her so we can control her.**" (emphasis added) GMA: "She's probably already being held by them." Garcillano: "She is here. That's why if it's possible we'll have her family call her up."

All this shows GMA—or The Voice That Sounds Like GMA—to be guilty of impropriety? Well, only in the sense that the smoldering villages across Europe showed Attila the Hun to be guilty of naughtiness.

No yes-or-no answer for GMA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PALACE has said that President Macapagal-Arroyo will not respond to the call for her to categorically say whether or not she was the female voice in the taped phone conversations allegedly between her and former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. The Palace has said that GMA will respond instead to the issue of electoral fraud which, it maintains, is the core issue behind the tapes. This "yes-or-no issue" has been the topic of many conversations in coffee shops, social gatherings, offices and homes.

* * *

I was in one such social gathering recently, and it was interesting to note the many opinions on the subject. One fellow at our table said that GMA has to face that question squarely: did she or did she not talk to Garci? Was that her voice in the tape or not? This fellow demanded only one answer from her—yes or no—adding that her continued existence as the nation's leader could hinge on her answer to this question.

A guy interjected: Suppose GMA admits it's her voice all right. How sure would she be that the voice on the other line is Garcillano's? Not only that; that what they talked about is what has been recorded in the controversial tape? He also opined that considering the allegations now about the opposition's role in "producing" those tapes—highlighted by the claim of TSgt. Vidal Doble that Erap's mistress, Laarni Enriquez, gave him, through Samuel Ong, P2 million so he would own up the wiretapping of the alleged conversations—it's reasonable to assume that the male voice's lines had been tampered with. In other words, even if it's GMA's voice, the tape might have already been tampered with to show that the President intended to cheat.

* * *

I agreed with this second fellow's opinion—that GMA has little to gain from a simple yes-or-no response to the tapes issue. At the rate so many tapes have been produced, nobody now knows which is the genuine one, if there is a genuine one at all. Based on Doble's allegation of a P2-million bribery, the police authorities have invited Laarni Enriquez and six or seven other Erap supporters to shed light on their alleged role in the tapes. This could be just the beginning of the revelation on how the opposition had plotted to bring down the government and replace GMA with the deposed president—with the controversial tape as its lead weapon.

* * *

In this light, it would not make any sense for GMA to allow herself to be bamboozled into admitting something over the full contents of which she has totally no control. Her critics have smartly boxed her into this yes-or-no issue and hope to lock her in there by hammering that her continued refusal to meet it head-on is eroding her credibility. But as was argued by this second fellow at that gathering, what about the credibility of the tapes? Given the emerging evidence on the opposition's role in producing them, who can vouch for the integrity of these tapes?

This second fellow had opined that the disclosure of the opposition's role only makes the timing of the "tape exposé" quite suspect. Why were the tapes not exposed during the long period of canvassing or even at the wake of FPJ? Why only now? He surmised that it must have taken a lot of time and expertise to produce such a complex tape. "*Kaya ngayon lang nailabas!*" piped in a mischievous girl who appeared convinced of this fellow's argument. At that point, the debate over the tapes had become so heated that the poor host had to bring in some cooling ice cream.

* * *

This is, of course, quite apart from the issue of whether the production of these tapes has violated the Anti-Wire Tapping Law. If GMA were to answer yes or no, she would in effect be waving aside this legal issue. But it looks like she's not allowing herself to be trapped in this yes-or-no issue by refusing to comment on it. I suspect her pragmatic self has realized that she cannot control the rest of the material inside those tapes. Instead she wants to tackle the real issue of whether she won in the elections or not, which she can defend with facts and figures, as well as the testimonials of her political allies.

Thus, those who are advocating her resignation because of what looks like illegally acquired and tampered tapes may have to suspend judgment—or wait a long time—given the evidence of an elaborate opposition production now coming to light. Those who are salivating for the fall of the government on the basis of tapes supposedly manufactured in Timog, Quezon City, by Laarni et al. may have to wait a long while yet.

* * *

At last night's dzRH program co-hosted by Cecile Alvarez and myself for Dr. Jose Rizal's birthday, our guest, former Senate President Jovito Salonga, who turns 85 on Wednesday, stressed the role of the youth. He asserted that "throughout our history, it is the youth that have led our people in our struggle for freedom." Consider the following interesting facts as Salonga put them together: Rizal wrote his first novel, "Noli Me Tangere," at age 26; Marcelo del Pilar helped lead the Propaganda Movement at 32; Andres Bonifacio led the Katipunan at 26; Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo was inaugurated first president of the Republic at 29; Apolinario Mabini was the brains of the Revolution at 34; Antonio Luna was a revolutionary general at 29, and Gregorio del Pilar fought and died at Tirad Pass at 24. On the other hand, under the American administration, the youth led in our parliamentary struggle for independence: Sergio Osmeña was speaker of the Philippine Assembly at 29; Manuel L. Quezon was resident commissioner in Washington, D.C. at 32; Jose P. Laurel was secretary of interior at 32; Manuel A. Roxas was speaker of the Philippine Legislature at 29.

Tempest

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

A BIG storm of dissent is gathering in the South. It's not because the peace talk between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is again on the verge of being disrupted by the imbroglio sweeping the nation over the so-called "Gloria-gate" scandal on the wiretapped conversations allegedly between the President and a Comelec commissioner. The gathering storm is not even related to the call of some politicians for the establishment of a "Mindanao Republic," to spare the region from "Imperial Manila's scandals and bedlam" that have torpedoed the country's progress.

The "eye of the storm" is right on the members of the outgoing board of governors of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, led by incumbent IBP president Jose Cadiz.

The leaders of the 11 IBP chapters in Eastern Mindanao recently came out with a strongly worded resolution condemning the May 13 "unjust expulsion" of their incumbent regional governor, lawyer Leonard De Vera. A member of the Agusan del Sur Chapter and also the incumbent IBP executive vice president, De Vera is set to assume as the organization's national president on July 1.

De Vera's expulsion "shocked, if not revolted, the senses of the leaders and members of Eastern Mindanao's IBP chapters because it was made without observance of due process and without basis in fact and in law, coming as it did from lawyers who are supposed to be leaders of the Philippine Bar and who took an oath to uphold the rule of law," said the IBP leaders in a resolution issued last June 4, during the election of the new governors for the incoming IBP national board.

The resolution was signed by lawyers Bernard Dagcuta (Surigao del Norte and the new governor-elect for Eastern Mindanao), Caesar Europa (Davao City), Filomeno Cadiz (Agusan del Sur), Nelbert Poculan (Agusan del Norte), Israelito Torreon (Davao del Sur), Pableo Baldoza (Davao Oriental), Waldo Rebolos (Misamis Oriental), Reynaldo Salve (Davao del Norte), Nemesio Beltran (Bukidnon) and Florencio Narido Jr. (Camiguin).

The outrage felt by these IBP leaders is understandable. De Vera was "hazily but hastily" ousted from the IBP board of governors for allegedly rallying the different IBP chapters all over the country "to rebel against the Board" during the recently concluded 10th National Lawyers' Convention in Baguio City. During the plenary session, the Cadiz-led board was chastised by the delegates for withdrawing—without consulting the different IBP chapters—its Supreme Court petition questioning the constitutionality of the increased legal fees.

"We asked them to explain their infamous decision but they opted to remain silent during the plenary session," recalled IBP-Davao City president Caesar Europa. He said De Vera was "unceremoniously ousted" on May 13, "less than 24 hours" after a complaint was filed against him by IBP governor Romulo Rivera of Northern Luzon. Under the IBP by-laws, the removal of De Vera is subject to the approval of the Supreme Court.

"He (De Vera) was not afforded any hearing, any right to present evidence, any opportunity to question his accusers," Europa said in his June 14 letter to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. A total of 25 IBP chapters protested De Vera's expulsion, including the Baguio-Benguet chapter, whose members signed their resolution in red ink to emphasize their disgust.

Apparently, there are "devious machinations" to prevent De Vera from assuming the IBP's top post.

Prior to his expulsion, a complaint for disbarment was also filed before the high court by Zoilo Velez of Cagayan de Oro City. Velez used "almost exactly the same grounds" he cited in filing a petition to disqualify De Vera from running as governor of Eastern Mindanao in 2003. The Court earlier dismissed that petition of Velez for lack of merit.

Yet, as if De Vera's travails are not enough, the outgoing IBP board added "insult to (his) injury." Last week, De Vera was also removed as the national executive vice president by the outgoing board of governors. He was replaced by lawyer Pura Angelica Santiago of Southern Luzon.

"What right do the majority members of the Board of Governors have to elect a new Executive Vice President when the expulsion of the incumbent Executive Vice President, Governor De Vera, has yet to be approved by the Supreme Court? Is it not contumacious for them to preempt the decision of the Supreme Court?" Europa further said in his letter to Chief Justice Davide.

Under the "rotation rule" established by the Court, the IBP national president, or the position of executive vice president, who is elected from among the governors and who automatically becomes the next president, is supposed to come from the Eastern Mindanao Region for the term 2005-2007. In effect, what the outgoing board did in electing a new executive vice president is to deprive Eastern Mindanao of its right to the presidency of the IBP, Europa said.

"This smacks of a midnight appointment, which, for very good reasons, even the President of the Philippines, is prohibited from doing under the Constitution."

Indeed, some people are going too far.

* * *

GAD FATHERS: Today, at the weekly Kapehan sa SM Davao, which is hosted by the Davao Press Club, the newly organized Gender and Development-Fathers Advocating Total Health, Responsibility and Gender Sensitivity (GAD FATHERS) will be formally launched. GAD FATHERS is a loose network of men in Davao City, composed of well-meaning fathers, committed to serve as a self-help community action group and volunteer peer counselors in the advocacy for gender equality and in the campaign to stop violence against women and children (VAWC) at the community level.

Pilosopiya ng pagtitiis

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

(Mensahe sa 107-Anibersaryo ng proklamasyon ng kasarinlan, Tierra Bella Homes, Quezon City.)

NOONG nag-aaral pa ako sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, isa sa mga tinatakdang kurso ay ang buhay ni Rizal. Habang dumadaan ang mga buwan, nahalata ng aming propesor na nahihirapan ang kanyang klase sa mga teksto na pinapabasa sa amin. Pinagalitan kami nang isang araw noong halatang-halata na hindi namin kayang pag-usapan nang matino ang mga konseptong pampilosopiya ni Hegel, isang Alemang intelektwal. Noong pinagalitan kami, sinabi agad ng isang kaklase ko: "Pambihira naman si Ma'am. Sa ibang Rizal course, hanggang Noli, Fili, at Josephine Bracken lang ang kanilang tinatalakay sapagkat itinatakda lamang ito ng batas." Hindi ko makakalimutan ang sagot sa amin ng aming propesor. Pinaliwanag niya na walang karapatang makilahok sa buhay ng lipunan ang mga indibidwal na nagpakita ng kakulangang intelektwal sa buhay at mga prinsipyo ni Rizal. "Huwag ninyong kalimutan," sabi niya, "na ang buhay ng ating pambansang bayani ay nakaukit sa tatlong prinsipyo: kaalaman, katalinuhan, at pagtitiis." Ang problema daw sa kabataan, minamahal lang namin ang kalayaan. Binasa niya sa amin ang sinulat ng isang makatang Kastila, si Miguel de Unamuno:

"Si Rizal, isang napaka-relihiyosong kaluluwa, ay nadamang ang kalayaan ay hindi isang layunin kundi isang pamamaraan; na hindi sapat para sa isang tao o sambayanan na naisin ang maging malaya kahit na walang tiyak na pagkaunawa ang mabuo kung ano ang magiging silbi ng kalayaan sa kalaunan.

Malinaw naman sa atin na ang buhay at diwa ni Rizal ay tungkol sa kadakilaan na nadudulot ng isang buhay na nagpapakita ng pagmamahal sa kaalaman at katalinuhan, ngunit ang hindi kapansin-pansin ay ang kahalagahan ng kabutihan ng konsepto ng pagtitiis. Sa aking sariling pagsusuri, nakita ko na ang konsepto ng pagtitiis ay hiniram ng aking propesor sa yumaong manunulat na si Leon Ma. Guerrero. Sa isa sa kanyang mga sanaysay, ito ang sinulat niya:

Maari natin itong tawaging pilosopiya ng "pagtitiis." Hindi ito naglalaman ng padalos-dalos na pakikiharap na napapaloob sa Pilipinong konsepto ng "bahala na," na maaring magtulak tungo sa pagkilos, pwedeng padalos-dalos, hinahayaan na lamang ang kalutasan sa Maykapal, ngunit gayonpaman ay pagkilos pa rin, at sa tanong na "Ano ba ang kailangang gawin?" ay maisasagot, "Maaring ito o iyun, o yung isa pang pagpipilian, subukan lamang natin at tignan kung ano ang mangyayari, wala namang mawawala sa atin." Ikinatatakot ko na maari akong bumalik sa aking sinasabing pagka-ordinaryo, at ilarawan ito bilang pilosopiya ni Bonifacio at Aguinaldo, ang pilosopiya ng himagsikan.

Ang "pagtitiis" na mensahe ni Rizal ay kakaiba. Sinulat nya "Kailangan nating makamtan ang ating kalayaan sa pamamagitan ng pagiging karapat-dapat dito, sa pamamagitan ng paghahasa sa isipan at pagpapataas sa dangal ng bawa't isa, pagmamahal sa katarungan, sa kabutihan, sa kadakilaan, kahit hanggang sa kamatayan. Kapag natarok na iyan ng sambayanan, ang Diyos na mismo ang magbibigay ng sandata, at ang mga diyos-diyosan at malulupit na panginoon ay babagsak na parang bahay na gawa sa baraha."

Sa tanong "Ano ba ang dapat gawin?" sasagutin muli ni Rizal: "Magtiis, magtrabaho, at maghintay sa paggabay ng Diyos."

Ano ang ibig sabihin ng pilosopiya ng pagtitiis? Ang sakripisyo at kahirapan na naidudulot ng isang purong pagmamahal sa kaalaman at katalinuhan ang kailangan nating batayan sa pagkakaintindi sa pilosopiyang ito.

Sa ating sariling lipunan, ang isa sa mga pinaka-ginagalang na miyembro ng komunidad ay ang guro. At sa milyon-milyong pamilyang Pilipino, ang isa sa mga pinakamatibay na tradisyon ay ang pagtitipon ng kakayahan ng pamilya upang pag-aralin ang isang kasapi na maging propesyonal, katulad ng ginawa ng kapatid ni Rizal na huminto sa pag-aaral upang magtrabaho para mapag-aral ang kanyang kapatid, o kaya ang pagiging isang kawani sa kompaniyang pangangalakal ng mga dayuhan, katulad ni Andres Bonifacio, o pagiging abogado ni Apolinario Mabini. Ang kaalaman at katalinuhan ay bunga ng paghihirap at pagsusubok. Maraming kailangang daanan ang isang tao upang makatikim ng bunga ng kanyang pag-aaral. Sa hanay ng mga magulang at mga kapatid, maraming taon ang lilipas bago nila makita ang bunga ng kanilang mga sakripisyo, at kahit dumating man ang araw na naging isang doctor, abogado, guro, o inhinyero na ang kanilang anak o kapatid, hindi pa rin nila masisiguro na palaging magiging maginhawa ang buhay ng kanilang angkan. Ngunit, ayon kay Rizal, at sa pananaw ng nakakarami sa ating kapwa Pilipino, mismong ang pagsisikap tungo sa kahusayan ang lumilikha ng tinatawag nating kalinangang panlipunan: ang pagsasabuhay ng kahalagahan ng pagtitiyaga, disiplina, kamulatan, at katapatan hindi lamang sa pamilya kundi sa buong sambayanan.

Ayon kay Guerrero, minana natin sa mga Kastila ang kakulangan ng kalinangang panlipunan. Ayon nga sa opinyon ng nakararami, ang pamamalakad ng gobyerno at ang paggamit ng kapangyarihan sa ating lipunan ay kopya ng mga kakulangan ng mga Kastila: pulitika bilang laro; kapangyarihan bilang paraan upang mapaunlakan ang mga mababababaw na kagustuhan. Namana naman natin sa Amerika, ayon kay Guerrero, ang materyalismo—ang pagmamahal sa mga bagay at hindi mga prinsipyo, at ang pananaw na ang mga kasangkapan ang nagpapatunay ng kagalingan. Ang pilosopiya ng pagtitiis ay ang kaisa-isang paraan kung paano natin maiiwasan ang nakalalasong pamana ng mga dayuhang naghari sa atin; at ang paraan kung paano natin malulutas ang problema ng kawalan ng pag-asa.

50—and counting

HIGH BLOOD

Violeta Narvas-Santos

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

IT almost comes as a shock to realize that I've been hitched to one man for 50 l-o-n-g years. Mind-boggling, to say the least.

Where have all those years gone? Looking back, it doesn't seem that long at all. It's true, what people say—life is but a dream.

Going down memory lane—not with a little bit of bittersweet nostalgia: those were exciting courtship days—the introductions, the getting-to-know-you stage, then the daily notes and letters (no texting then), the stolen glances, the de rigueur flowers and chocolates, the dates at eateries, the early evening strolls, and then gradually, the stolen kisses.

During the early getting-to-know-you stage, we would linger so long at having coffee or soft drinks in the cafeteria that the straw would soften and disintegrate—no kidding.

We had our share of LQs (lovers' quarrel to the uninitiated) over the flimsiest things like jealousy, stubbornness, pride, but they would not last very long.

We were told that the best place and time to look for a life partner is in the school campus because you can have the pick of the best and the choicest. After graduation, choices are limited to the people available in the work place. Makes sense, right?

In my third year of college, I deemed it the right time to scout around for a suitable life partner. The University of the Philippines was an indulgent parent in this regard—to develop social graces, we were required to go to weekly dances and monthly socials. Except for the very timid and isolationists, these were very welcome fun activities indeed. We had a subject called Euthenics (I wonder why it was discontinued), a very useful venue for social development for young girls to bloom gracefully from the raw, timid provincial buds, ignorant of proper social behavior, that they were.

One of the most important lessons taught us was how to choose a life-mate. We were admonished to keep our eyes wide open when dealing with suitors and to keep them half-closed after the ties were knotted. Knowing the partner's faults beforehand and being blind to them later would preclude hurtful criticisms. Attempts at transforming the partner more to our liking would prevent unpleasant situations. The grinding, sanding, polishing of rough surfaces, if done before, rather than after, would save a lot of marriages.

The lesson was dinned so well into my noggin that when I met my prospective partner (now life-partner), I could not make it into a swept-me-off-my-feet affair. I had to coldly evaluate the pros and cons of this suitor against that one. When I finally made the decision, I grimly clenched my teeth and said resolutely: I made my bed, now I have to lie on it. Lucky for me, the decision didn't turn out too bad.

I can say, without fear of contradiction from married couples, that the first year of marriage is the hardest to hurdle. Various adjustments—personal, social, financial, etc. have to be made. In our case, financially, we were not too stable. The new groom's starting salary was only a pittance.

In keeping with our finances, our first living space was a poorly ventilated small room. The bed had a badly sagging mattress depressed deeply at the center.

When the first baby arrived, neither of us knew about child-rearing. But adjust we did. We found a way to solve the worrisome night-feeding problem. I would take the first shift from 6 to 12 a.m. After midnight, it was the hubby's tour of duty.

When our finances improved, we moved to a bigger apartment; and then the children came—not in rapid succession—but at carefully regulated intervals of five years.

One of the great blessings in my life, which made mixing career and motherhood a cinch, was the good fortune of finding child-friendly maids and *yayas* who took care of our kids like they were their own. Their child-rearing ways left nothing to be desired. Thus, the kids grew up wholesome, complex-free. One maid would even throw dagger looks at me when I disciplined or smacked my kids the few times they were naughty.

The years flew by in whirls of events and happenings. We had the inevitable fights. We had our lovey-dovey days, bouts of jealousy, discontent. We had in-law problems, *barkada* irritants, financial insecurities, clashing personal habits and attitudes. We would spend days on end ignoring each other, giving each other the silent treatment. Then afterwards, the blissful making up.

Career-wise, I was busy with mine, the hubby with his. We almost lived our own lives separately. We would see each other only at the end of the day. But on weekends, we were together. My husband made it a point that the children enjoyed to the full their childhood. He would wisely say, it's just for a short while that they'll be with us. True enough. In a blink of the eye, they were all suddenly grown-up, then out of our lives—and into their own.

We were always there for them—the school programs, plays, field days, swimming, music, dance lessons. Maybe this is a reason why we did not encounter the usual teenage challenges. We were mercifully spared from teenage rebellion—no drugs, no *barkada*—instead there was the striving for academic excellence, wholesome activities, friends.

About this time, we moved from a cramped apartment to a large home with a big yard and garden—where they could climb trees, pitch a tent, sleep under the stars, play basketball and ping-pong.

One day, we woke up to an empty nest, the two of us alone, as we were 50 years ago—this time, gazing into each other's eyes, holding hands, eating meals without the exciting exchanges and lively discussions of yore with the kids, the dialogues reduced to muted uh's and quiet monosyllables.

But being back to square one has its plus points, too. You can take off whenever and to wherever you want. Financial responsibilities are lessened, worries and concerns disappear. Being with each other more often heightens and deepens the relationship, and we find that we are now closer to each other.

But it must really be love, enduring each other for half a century. Imagine waking up every day looking at the same face for all of 18,250 days! Levity aside, we, at this point feel truly blessed; in this sad age of separations, divorces, annulments, only a chosen few are granted this gift of 50 years of wedded bliss. (The hubby's not-so-closely-guarded secret for a happy marriage: be flexible, like a rubber band.)

In return for this wonderful gift, we have resolved to live for a purpose, to focus more on the right priorities, on the things that really matter—helping our fellow men in the next 3,650 or more (we hope) days!

Violeta Narvas-Santos is a grandmother thrice over, who says she is proud to be in her early 70s, especially because she doesn't look it, according to her friends.

Pain and unfulfilled dream

CONRADO de Quiros' column "Pain" (PDI, 6/7/05) correctly nails President Macapagal-Arroyo's claim to "feel the people's pain" to the cross of absurdity. I am, however, prepared to stop laughing should she first disguise herself and try the following:

1. Leave the presidential limousine at her mansion and take a jeepney (without police escorts) to the Palace, preferably stuck behind a smoke-belching bus that she has done nothing to eliminate.

2. Start a business, any business, and suffer the mountainous bureaucracy and endless bribes needed to obtain the correct and legal paperwork. Pretending to be a foreigner will not help. It will only cost much, much more.

3. Should that fail, try and find a job, any job, at P325 a day. Assuming she finds one, let her try and fill her husband's and son's stomachs with rice (not cake) and still have enough left to pay the Meralco bill. The "pain" may turn to "sweat" when she discovers all those air conditioners just aren't an option.

4. Should she find herself among the 10-20 percent who can't find a job, any job, then let her send her sons to work as GROs and sell their bodies and souls in any of the thousands of bars that splatter the Philippines, just to pay the bills.

5. Assuming that her much vaunted religious and moral convictions won't allow this, then she can always find a cardboard box to live in for a while and a plastic cup to beg pesos (+ VAT) with.

GMA will, of course, find my suggestions as absurd as her claims. Perhaps, she should just watch reruns of Edsa II continuously and endlessly until she is tortured into the realization that the dream it promised for all Filipinos still remains just that, a dream, unfulfilled.

—DUDLEY SNOAD,
dudleysnoad@yahoo.com

Billions of pesos worth of broken promises

THE HEADLINE of a news story that appeared in the June 2 issue of the INQUIRER ("More firms willing to fight corruption") recalls an old, unfulfilled promise of the business sector.

In 1992, I attended a Makati Business Club meeting, representing the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. In that meeting, I heard the businessmen promise to allocate 5 percent of their net profit to fight graft and corruption.

The promise was repeated in 1996, in a similar meeting where I again represented the IBP. During the open forum, I even asked Mahar Mangahas of the Social Weather Stations, who was presiding over the meeting with Guillermo Luz, executive director of the MBC, if the business sector, the MBC in particular, is serious in this commitment. I asked them the question because, way back in 1992, that was already the promise of the business sector.

Based on our study, it will only cost P10 million a year to effectively fight graft and corruption, provided the Office of the Ombudsman will be serious in performing its duties.

Five percent of the net profit of the business community is a gargantuan amount. The profit of a giant corporation in the Philippines—like Caltex, Shell, Meralco, Unilever, PLDT, etc.—comes up to billions of pesos. Five percent of P1 billion coming from Unilever alone will amount to P50 million.

If the businessmen are really serious about their promise, our association, which has been involved in the study of how to prosecute graft and corruption cases since the Marcos dictatorship, is ready, willing and able to provide them with a step-by-step program on how to go about effectively fighting graft and corruption in the Philippines with only P10 million a year.

—PROCOPIO S. BELTRAN JR.
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Manggagawang Pilipino Inc.
(Manananggol), 236 Regina Bldg.,
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Only one peaceful option for the Filipino people

THE CONFLUENCE of events—the *jueteng* scandal, tape exposé, declining popularity, higher oil prices, low wages etc.—points to the urgent need to change the guard.

There are four options for the Filipino people. A revolution, which would be bloody. A coup d'etat, which will put the destiny of the Filipino nation in the sharp claws of dictatorship. Another people power, which has been proven ineffective in improving the lives of the Filipinos. Then, the only viable alternative, which is the constitutional process.

The constitutional process will demand the highest sense of patriotism and sacrifice from our President and Vice President who have dismally failed our people. They should resign.

Thereafter, the Senate president will become a transition leader of our nation. Acting as president, it will be his duty to prepare the nation for an election. He should overhaul the entire Comelec by calling for the resignation of its officers—from its highest official and down the line. He should swiftly move to computerize the electoral process. The transition period should only last one year.

The acting president then should call for elections to elect the president and the vice president. Apparently, this is the only peaceful option.

—EMMANUEL C. FONTANILLA,
grand facilitator,
Bigkis Balaod (Unity in Law),
3/F Gonzales Bldg., Pioneer Ave.,
General Santos City

Do Filipinos ever learn?

JUST recently, we heard the news that TV journalist Reyster Langit, son of the ever popular veteran radio broadcaster Rey Langit, was stricken ill with malaria while doing a documentary about the Tau't Bato—Palawan's indigenous community; and how he fought the disease but got beaten.

It's sad that someone had to die first before the government acted and created a so-called "national awareness" campaign on the issue. It just goes to show that our leaders don't know how to prioritize things and don't act on urgent matters until these are actually felt negatively. Such was the case of the late Reyster.

I am not fond of blaming anybody, but isn't it the responsibility of the Department of Health to warn us of the diseases that we could get with the start of the rainy season? I can't help but wonder what makes the DOH busy these days.

If only the government had focused on our basic needs first before searching for a way to impeach the President, then maybe the death of Reyster Langit could have been prevented. I am tired of promises. I've heard of such sweet words repeatedly said. What I want and what the whole country wants is action. Less talk and more action from the leaders. Do we ever learn? When will we ever learn?

—MARVIN A. FINULIAR,
marv_finuliar@yahoo.com

Cut and cut cleanly

IN THE JUNE 11 column of Amando Doronila titled "Cheap shot," he stated that "Reagan told Marcos to cut clean after it was clearly demonstrated that if he didn't leave, angry Filipinos would storm Malacañang and probably kill him."

For the sake of accuracy, then US President Ronald Reagan did not speak to Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos directly. It was Nevada Sen. Paul Laxalt who spoke to Marcos, who in turn inquired if President Reagan wanted him to step down, to which Laxalt replied that "President Reagan was not in a position to make that kind of demand."

It was then that Marcos asked, "Senator, what do you think? Should I step down?" Laxalt answered with the now memorable lines: "Mr. President, I'm not bound by diplomatic restraint. I'm only talking for myself. I think you should cut, and cut cleanly. The time has come."

—MARJO CARIASO,
marjoac@netscape.net

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Village execs sue vice mayor for graft

By Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—A group of village officials here has filed corruption charges against Vice Mayor Teresita Cabal and nine councilors in connection with the purchase of vegetable seeds intended for distribution to the different villages in the city.

In a complaint filed before the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon last month, five village heads, all officers of the city chapter of the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC), said Cabal, the councilors and two other city officials were responsible for the release of P530,700 from the local government funds for the purchase of vegetable seeds.

But while the seeds, bought from a Batangas-based company, had already been paid for and reportedly delivered, their intended beneficiaries have yet to receive them, according to the complainants.

Aside from Cabal, the other respondents in the case were Councilors Sherwin Rigor, Arsenio Lugay II, Franklin Dayao, Antonio Cervantes, Vladimir Rodriguez, Enrico de Leon, Arturo Serrano, Glen Troy Caritativo and Ismael Quintos, and city supply officer Carlos Gatdula III and general services chief Reynaldo Bonifacio.

The complainants were village chiefs Romeo Mallari of Alvindia, Eduardo Garcia Sr. of San Luis, Ligaya Landingin of San Juan Bautista, Rolly Esteban of Suizo and Josefino Romero of Balibago Primero.

They said the supposed distribution of 1,152 packs of seeds for mustard, string beans, loofa, squash, bitter gourd, gourd and okra was a "ghost project."

They attached as evidence certifications by 27 barangay chiefs of non-receipt of vegetable seeds from the city government.

They said the city officials "defrauded" the local government and "placed it in a disadvantageous position."

But Cabal dismissed the charges, saying the seeds were delivered to the city government on Nov. 25 last year and were paid for on Jan. 19 this year.

"The seeds were delivered and received under proper government procedures. The complainants did not get the seeds because they did not ask for their release in the first place. Those who received the seeds submitted resolutions of request," Cabal said on Sunday.

She said city officials did not know the supplier as the firm won in the online bidding conducted for the project.

Dayao confirmed the seeds were distributed but some village officials did not receive their share.

He said due to limited funds, "we cannot accommodate everybody. But we are assuring them that they will receive seeds next time," he said.

Bicol govs to quell oust call

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PILI, Camarines Sur—Taking a cue from Ilocos Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's call to declare an Ilocos Republic, the six governors of Bicol said they were also ready to quell attempts of groups to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee, spokesperson of the Bicol governors, said all the governors here had met and planned moves to preserve the rule of law, the duly constituted authority and the Constitution.

"We are against anybody or groups attempting a power grab and we are also ready to lead the Bicolano people to quell it and this is in support of the pronouncement of (Luis) 'Chavit' Singson," Lee declared.

Sobriety

He added that due process must be observed and the six Bicol governors were calling for "sobriety" amid accusations of "jueteng" payoffs given to members of the First Family and explosive wiretapped cell phone conversations allegedly of the President coaxing somebody on the other line to rig the election results.

At least two Bicol governors, Lee and Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., were among those named in the jueteng operations by Archbishop Oscar Cruz's witnesses in the Senate hearing.

Lee, without giving details of the plans of the Bicol governors, said they would "ferment civil unrest and disobedience in their respective provinces should destabilizers succeed in their attempt to oust the President."

The spokesperson of the Bicol governors added that the civil unrest would be their weapon against the power grabbers to isolate their provinces from actions subverting the Constitution.

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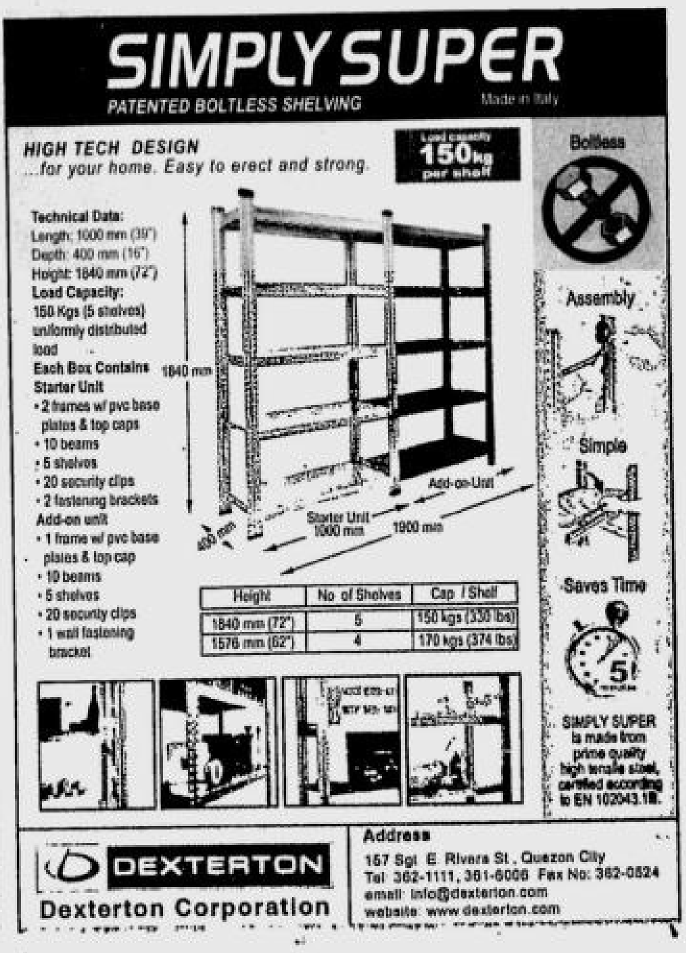
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PMA makes honor code applicable outside

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The Philippine Military Academy has started making its valued honor code applicable even outside the institution to remove reasons for military adventurism or opportunities for military corruption.

The honor code is an ethical guideline that compels cadets not to lie, cheat or steal, "or tolerate among us those who do."

Breaking the code has been the reason for the dismissal of many cadets, said PMA superintendent Lt. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing.

He said the Department of National Defense is processing a PMA review of the honor code and how it has been administered on cadets for the last 50 years.

The review would set reasonable character-building standards at the academy to help guide cadets through four years of training, he said.

Upperclass cadets still use the honor code to punish "dishonorable" underclassmen or subordinates, he said.

Balaoing said the honor system will also be attuned to Filipino psychology and will address such cultural quirks such as *pakikisama* (loyalty to peers, friends or family), which has been blamed for government tolerance of petty graft inside the military.

This will make the honor system accessible even to military personnel who have not undergone formal training at the PMA.

Balaoing made the disclosure here on Saturday after retired Maj. Gen. Ramon Farolan, former Philippine Air Force commander, told 209 incoming cadets of Class 2009 that the military scandals have indeed sullied PMA's reputation.

The plebes, among them 23 women, were officially accepted into the PMA Corps of Cadets on Saturday.

"Where before, people [who hear of scandals] give us the benefit of the doubt, today they are quick to condemn [the PMA and the military] and to pass judgment on the slightest mention of misbehavior," Farolan said.

He reminded the cadets of the honor system. He said they should accept it "not as a list of prohibitions, but as a set of principles."

He said the US Military Academy at West Point, New York, already redesigned its own honor system into an applicable honor code for "military life outside the academy."

Neither Balaoing nor Farolan discussed the text messages on martial law that started circulating on Friday, on the heels of the debates surrounding wiretapped recordings of President Macapagal-Arroyo allegedly directing an election official to cheat during the 2004 presidential polls.

Farolan warned the cadets about that language of politicians "who say one thing but mean other things depending on what is suitable for the moment." *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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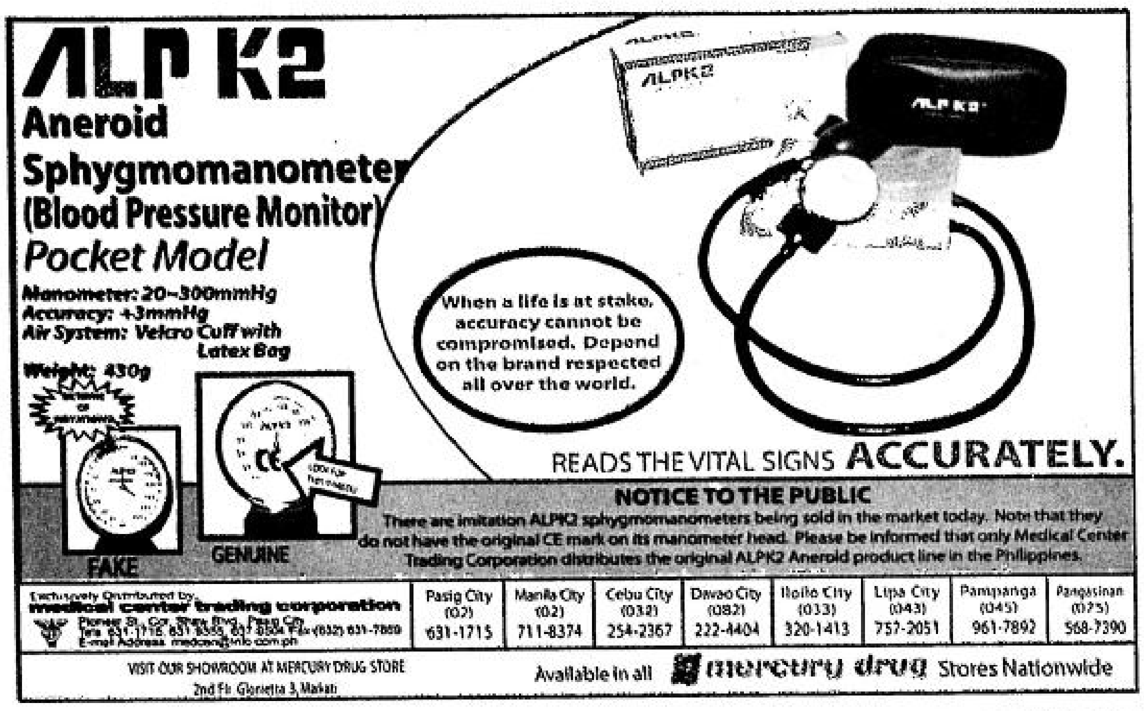

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Text-a-fire hotline launched in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Should there be a fire in your neighborhood, just send a text message to a hotline mobile phone number and help is on its way.

The text message will be sent to the network server, which, in turn, will dispatch the message to the mobile phone numbers of fire stations and their personnel.

"Since we are fond of text messaging and even considered the Text Messaging Capital of the world, why not use it to our advantage?" Gerie Chua, President of the Association of Philippine Volunteer Fire Brigades Inc., said.

CHUA

BING GONZALES

On Saturday, Chua met with local fire volunteers to launch the program "Txt Fire," which has already been working in Metro Manila, particularly in Binondo District where he serves as chair of Barangay 298.

"The dispatch system through text is the first in the world," Chua said.

To be a Txt Fire volunteer, one needs to register to a hotline number and a prompt reply message will tell you that you have become a volunteer and can report any fire emergency using text messaging.

Chua said even Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and several mayors in Metro Manila had registered themselves as Txt Fire volunteers.

To register, one has to text: REG (space) DVO (space) Full Name (space) Address, and send it to the hotline number 09186888888 .

The number, however, has no voice operator since it is designed only to receive and send text messages to members and firefighters. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Davao promoted as prime sports destination in RP

DAVAO CITY—Tired of grooming back to life the city's image ravaged by the 2003 twin bombings at the Davao airport and Sasa port and the Valentine's day bombing early this year, local tourism players are trying out another way to attract foreign tourists.

In the country's recent tourism sales missions to three countries, they promoted the city as prime destination for sports, particularly diving, golf and, sometimes, shooting.

"It would be different if you promote Davao for sports tourism because people who love sports will continue to come, with or without security threats," said Baby Montemayor, chair of the Southern Philippines Tourism Council (SPTC).

Mission

Montemayor said she often caught herself trying to explain to prospective foreign visitors what happened to Pearl Farm or the Davao airport bombings. But now, she said, she had another way of answering questions.

She said Davao used to enjoy an influx of tourists from South Korea but foreign tourists are now hesitant to come.

"The Korean market is almost totally wiped out," she said. This is why, she said, the Davao tourism industry is trying to patch the shattered image by participating in international tourism sales missions organized by the Department of Tourism to bring the "country's tourism products to where the market is."

Art Boncato, chair of the Davao Tourism Association (Data), said they just wanted to make their presence felt.

"If we don't make an effort to be seen or heard, we'll be left behind," he said.

The recent tourism missions were focused on Korea, Hong Kong and Japan.

Target

The DOT targets to draw in over one million Japanese tourists nationwide by 2008. At present, only about 450,000 Japanese are coming to the country each year. Less than 30,000 of them go to Davao, he said.

But Boncato said it would take them years to know if their efforts would pay off. "We'll start counting our gains years from now," he said.

"If the country will attract a million Japanese tourists, we will have to find out how many of them are coming to Davao," Boncato said.

Philippine Airlines has agreed to charter flights to Davao next year to bring in a planeload of golfers and divers and other sport lovers.

The Hong Kong flight will arrive in time for the 2006 Chinese New Year while tour operators from Korea will stage a familiarization tour in July and August. *Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Rebel killed in clash

PAETE, Laguna—Police and the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion killed a New People's Army member in an encounter Thursday with four rebels in Barangay Bagumbayan here. Town police chief Insp. Virgilio Alvis identified the slain rebel as Edilberto D. Orozco, of Barangay Ongos, Real, Quezon. His three companions escaped and were being pursuit by government troops.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

15 new school buildings

LUCENA CITY—Fifteen new school buildings will be constructed in different school sites here after the Development Bank of the Philippines approved an P80-million loan by the city government. The city council's committee on education, appropriations and laws said the elementary and high school student population in the city rose by 45 percent, but most of the public school buildings are dilapidated and unsafe. Benjie Calvelo, city public information officer, said some of the buildings had already been demolished, resulting in a shortage of classrooms. Twenty-four classrooms will be constructed at the Lucena City National High School and the rest will be put up in 10 public elementary schools.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hot lumber seized

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police on Friday arrested six persons who tried to smuggle more than 3,000 board feet of illegally cut coconut lumber to Metro Manila. Supt. Alberto Supapo, Regional Mobile Group-Calabarzon director, identified the suspects as owner Manuel Opulencia; driver Ricardo Tolentino, 20; and helpers Romeo Anuran, 40; Eggie Duran, 38; Reynaldo Tolentino, 45; and Sonny Anuran, 34, all of Barangay San Pedro, Alaminos, Laguna. Supapo said Opulencia failed to present documents to support the shipment of the lumber when intercepted at a police checkpoint along the South Luzon Expressway. He said the lumber was turned over to the Philippine Coconut Authority office in Alaminos town.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

5 suspected rebels killed

CATBALOGAN, Samar—Five armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA) were killed on Wednesday night in an encounter with soldiers in Jiabong town, Samar. Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the 8th Infantry Division based here, said the bodies of the rebels were still in Barangay Crispina, a mountain village located 22 km from the town proper. He said he ordered Lt. Col. Edilberto Nisnisan, head of the 34th Infantry Battalion based in San Jorge town, Samar to bring the bodies to the Jiabong municipal hall for identification. About 50 soldiers belonging to the 34th IB ran into a group of about 30 rebels at about 8:30 p.m., he said. An exchange of gunfire ensued, lasting for about 30 minutes. The rebels retreated, leaving behind their fallen comrades and two rifles.

Joey A. Gableta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Plan to settle coco levy cases out of court opposed

LUCENA CITY—Some 100 coconut farmer leaders from Quezon, Laguna, Batangas and Marinduque have strongly opposed the planned out-of-court settlement of coconut levy cases against Marcos crony and tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

"Any attempt to settle out of court, especially issues already decided on, is not only immoral but also highly illegal. It definitely runs contrary to the court decisions and will surely benefit Danding Cojuangco," the farmers said in a statement distributed during the Bukohan Forum here Friday.

On Thursday, Camilo Sabio, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, said an out-of-court compromise agreement was being considered to end the impasse on the multi-billion-peso coconut levy fund.

The coconut farmers instead proposed that efforts should be directed at pushing President Macapagal-Arroyo to issue an executive order for the immediate implementation of the court decision declaring all levy-funded San Miguel Corp.-Coconut Industry and Investment Fund shares as "public funds owned by the government in trust for all coconut farmers."

The funds, now amounting to P130 billion, were collected from coconut farmers as a forced tax through a decree issued by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos between 1973 and 1982. Marcos appointed Cojuangco as the administrator of the funds.

The forum participants urged the President to liquefy the 27-percent SMC-CIIF shares, now estimated to be worth P50 billion, and use the funds for meaningful programs that would benefit the small coconut farmers as well as the whole coconut industry.

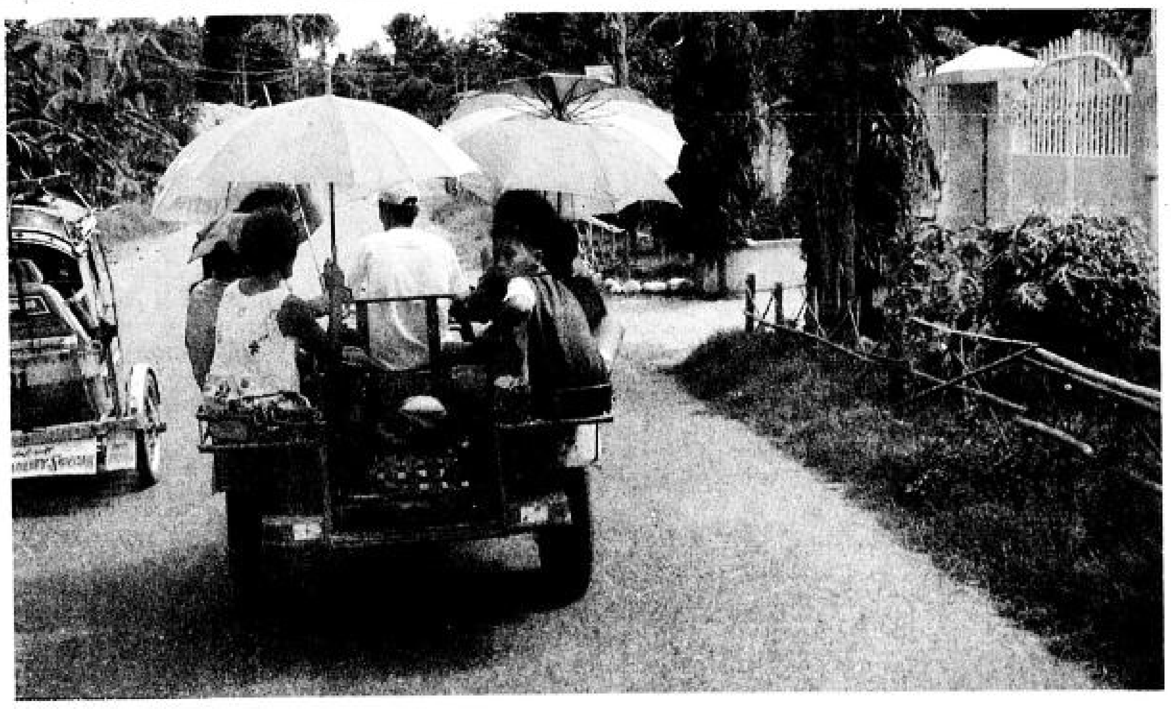
"But the government must ensure that the sale is conducted through an open public bidding. The proceeds will then be set up as a perpetual trust fund wherein only the annual interest will be used to fund the programs," Joey Faustino, Coconut Industry Reform Movement executive director, told the INQUIRER.

He added: "If President Arroyo is sincere in her efforts to uplift the lives of coco farmers, she should put to implementation the court decision. In fact, even prior to the sale of the SMC-CIIF shares, a huge sum of P1 billion a year cash dividends of the said shares can already be used for the purpose."

Former lawmaker and coconut farmer leader Oscar Santos urged members of the Supreme Court, Sandiganbayan and all other government agencies concerned to help hasten the resolution of all pending coconut levy cases.

In 2001, the court affirmed the public character of the coconut levy fund. The Sandiganbayan has determined that the 27 percent of the levy-funded SMC-CIIF shares belongs to coconut farmers.

The remaining 20-percent shares are still being contested by the national government and Cojuangco, who chairs the SMC board of directors. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



SCHOOL BUS A mechanical field plow doubles as a shuttle service for elementary school students and their parents in Villasis, Pangasinan.

TOOTS SOBERANO/ NORTHERN LUZON

16 kids of slain journalists get scholarships

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Among those who returned to school this month are 16 students who were awarded scholarship grants for children of journalists killed in the last 20 years.

The scholars—eight college students, four in high school and another four in grade school—comprised the first batch of beneficiaries of a five-year scholarship program of the London-based Bevil Mabey Study Foundation, the Kasangga at Gabay Foundation, and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

The scholars, enrolled in various schools in the provinces, will receive subsidies for tuition and miscellaneous fees (equivalent to public school rates), as well as a monthly living allowance for 10 months for the next five years, if they maintain a certain grade.

The NUJP, which is running the scholarship program through its more than 40 provincial and city chapters, is expected to announce the names of another batch of scholars soon.

"This doesn't mean that justice has been done to the victims, but I hope it will ease the difficulties for those they have left behind," said NUJP chair Inday Espina-Varona in a statement announcing the selection of the Orphans' Fund.

"It also doesn't mean that the search for justice can now be stopped," she added.

One of the scholars is Rynche Garcia Arcones, 23, daughter of Severino Arcones of dyFM Bombo Radyo Iloilo who was killed on Oct. 17, 1989, and Marlyn Garcia Esperat of the Midland Review in Tacurong who was slain on March 24, 2005.

Another daughter of Arcones, Lorraine Grace, 18, is a scholar.

Other beneficiaries are Edellou Amoro, daughter of broadcaster Edgar Amoro of Pagadian City; and Albert Pala, 23, son of Juan "Jun" Pala of dxGO Davao.

The other scholars are Mikhail Alcantara, son of broadcaster Sonny Alcantara in San Pablo City; Eleazar Binoya, 15, son of Elpidio Binoya, of Radyo Natin in General Santos; Jonabeth Doring, 14, daughter of Klein Cantoneros of dxAA in Dipolog; Ma. Edralin Endrinal, 21, daughter of Rowel Endrinal of dzRC in Legaspi City; and Kim Hinolan, 10, son of Herson Hinolan of Bombo Radyo in, Aklan.

Also named beneficiaries are Xyrell Anthony Manalo, 13, child of Arnel Manalo of dzRH and Bulgar in Batangas; Karina Karmela Mariano, 8, daughter of Roger Mariano of dzJC Aksyon Radyo in Laoag City and Princess Mae Palo, 17, daughter of Leo Palo of dxRA in Davao.

The others are Jose "Otip" Nava, 18, son of Josef Aldeguer Nava of the Visayan Life Today in Iloilo City; Arantya Karizzah Sanchez, 13, daughter of Romeo Sanchez of Northern Dispatch in Ilocos; Noel Teneso Jr., 23, son of Noel Teneso Sr. of Bombo Radyo Iloilo; and Kint Christian Hector Ureta, 7, son of the Rolando Ureta of the dyKR in Aklan.

"We are thankful for the help that was extended to us. I could never thank [the organizations involved in the program] enough," said Hinolan's widow, Aphrodite.

She said she will continue hoping and praying that justice will be given to all the victims including her husband.

Jose Marte Nava, whose brother Otip was one of scholars, said the Orphans' Fund is a "challenge to the scholars to live up to what their parents died for."

DOLE offers deal to settle Lepanto strike

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment has crafted a compromise deal to settle the two-month-old labor dispute between mining giant Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. and the Lepanto Employees Union.

The mining company and the union have been deadlocked in their negotiations since last year for a new collective bargaining agreement for the period of Nov. 17, 2004, to Nov. 16, 2007.

In a decision dated June 14, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas gave the workers additional P25 in daily pay effective retroactively on Nov. 17, 2004. An additional P27 per day will be granted on Nov. 17, 2005 and P29 on Nov. 17, 2006.

"[The Department of Labor and Employment] recognizes that wages and salaries are the primary means by which workers meet their basic needs. However, such need must also be balanced by the right of the company to a reasonable return on investments," Sto. Tomas ruled.

Following the deadlock, the LEU filed a notice of strike on April 5. When both sides refused to reconcile, the DOLE assumed jurisdiction of the dispute on May 10.

The workers went ahead with their strike on June 2 and defied a return-to-work order issued by DOLE on June 8.

In Mankayan, Benguet, the strikers claimed the firm violated their rights when it cut their power and water supplies.

Laurence Farrong, a director of the union board, said the firm also stopped accepting workers and their dependents from the company hospital.

Farrong said at least 12 patients, who were dependents of the protesting workers, were prematurely discharged from the hospital.

Ernesto Laoagan, assistant resident manager of LCMC, denied the workers' allegations. He said they limited the supply of electricity and water to save energy and water in the community.

"We have incident reports on the cutting off of water supply, but we are not cutting the water lines in residential areas. Our hospital is always open 24 hours," Laoagan told reporters on Monday.

A medical team from the Baguio City-based nongovernment organization Community Health Education Services and Training in the Cordillera Region (Chestcore) was stopped from entering LCMC's premises to examine the striking workers and residents.

"This is a clear violation of the workers' and residents' basic right to health care. Even in times of war, medical personnel are respected and allowed unrestricted passage to deliver health services. Hospitals are kept open and protected from attack," said Dr. Ana Marie Leung, executive director of Chestcore.

She said LCMC closed down the company hospital on June 2, the first day of the strike.

"This is not a war situation; the workers are unarmed. And yet Lepanto is denying medicine and personnel from passing through its gates," Leung said.

Cris Martinez, LCMC human resources, training and administration manager and the LCMC's chief negotiator, denied Chestcore's allegations.

Martinez said the company's doctors, who were tasked with examining some workers in the underground tunnels, were prevented by the striking workers from entering the tunnels.

"It is our own doctors who could not get in our own property. [Chestcore] does not have to conduct its own medical mission because we have our own hospital that could attend to the workers' medical needs," he said.

The workers are pushing for P28, P29 and P33 increase in the three-year effectivity of the collective bargaining agreement.

They have rejected the LCMC management proposal of P21, P27 and P29 increase. *Jerome Aning in Manila and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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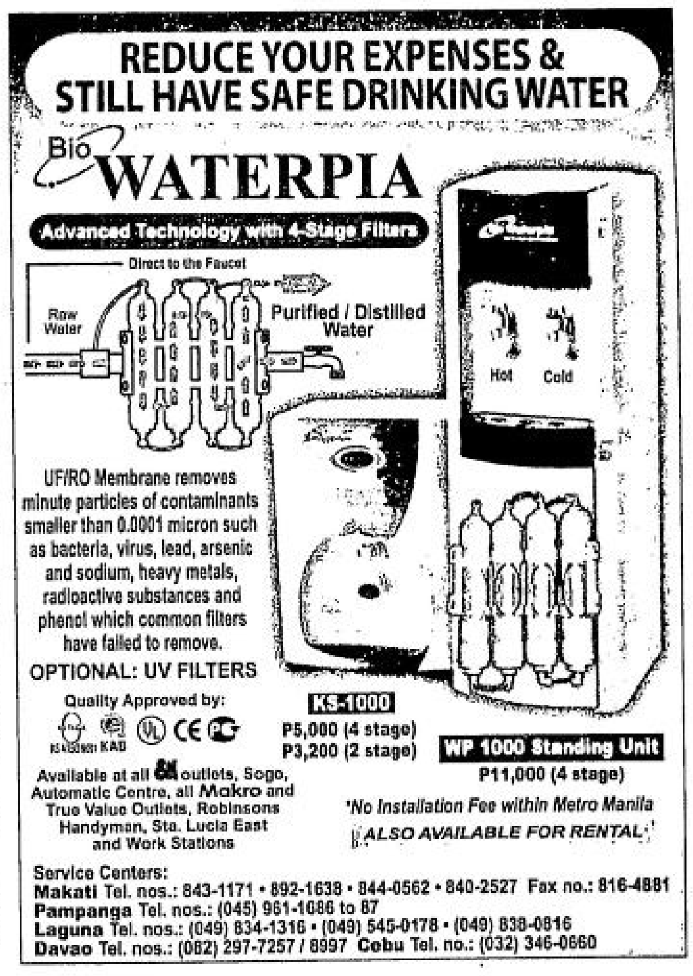
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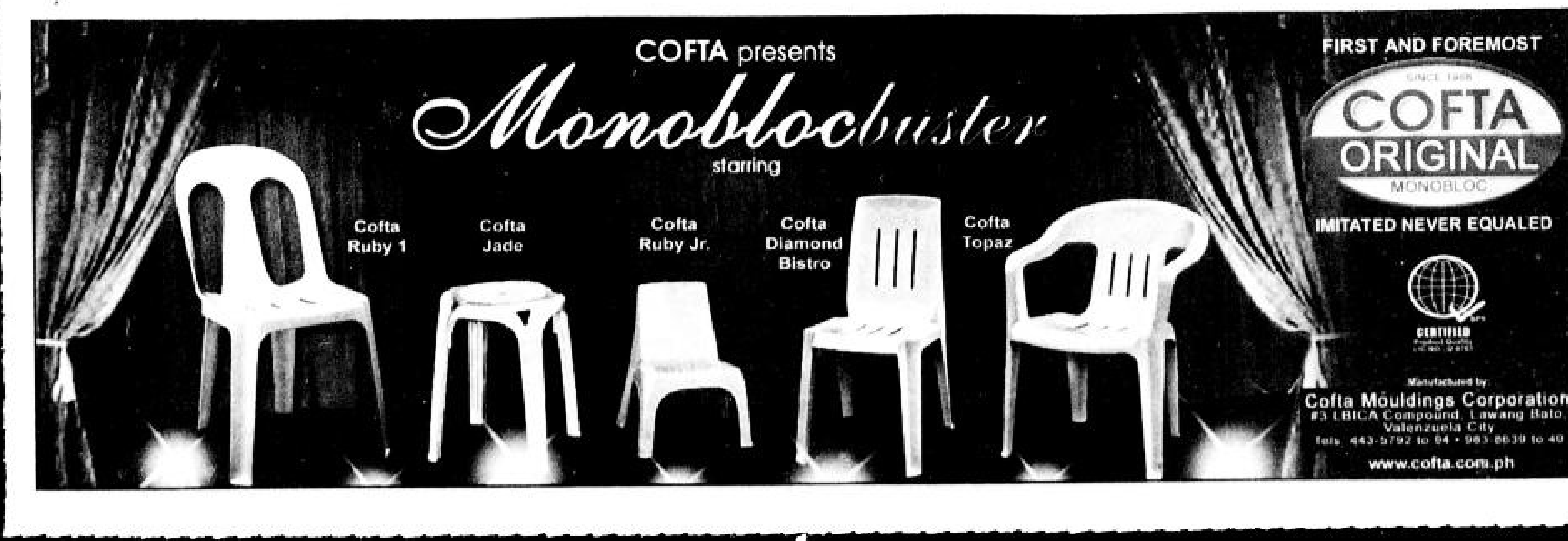
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'Hello Garci' downloads trigger crash of website

From page A1

Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged "Hello Garci" sound clips.

Demand for the ring tones was so big that txtpower.org, the website of the mobile subscribers group TXTPower, crashed within one hour of uploading two "Hello Garci" sound files at around noon on Friday, TXTPower convenor Anthony Cruz said yesterday.

"The sheer volume of those who logged onto our website and those who downloaded the files caused our website to crash. Our bandwidth is just 100 megabytes and it simply cannot cope with the hits and the download activity," Cruz told the INQUIRER.

Cruz said Inq7.net's breaking story on the free "Hello Garci" downloads on txtpower.org—a news account that came online within an hour of uploading by TXTPower of the sound files at the group's site—may be credited for the quick response of Internet users.

[The Inq7 breaking story came from the INQUIRER.].

"It's a good thing there were groups who came to our rescue and offered their sites as mirror sites for downloading (the files containing excerpts of the alleged conversations between Ms Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano about rigging the presidential election in her favor)," Cruz said.

Within the first 24 hours of having uploaded the sound files on Friday, Cruz said txtpower.org received more than 48,000 hits.

He said there was even a time over the weekend—at 6 a.m. on Saturday—when almost 8,000 users logged onto the site.

"That was the time when the INQUIRER hit the streets in the morning," Cruz said.

As of noon yesterday, there were already a total of more than 72,000 hits on txtpower.org.

Internet cafés

Before uploading the "Hello Garci" files, visitors of txtpower.org over the past three months did not even reach a thousand.

Asked if public interest in the ring tones had plateaued after the first 48 hours of the uploading, Cruz said it had not.

"Most Internet users get their access from either (Internet) cafés or the offices. We expect more to visit the site when work resumes (today)," Cruz said. Not many people have computers at home, much less Internet access, according to the TXTPower convenor.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said over the weekend that Malacañang was not taking lightly the text jokes about the alleged conversations between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano and the alleged involvement of the President's loved ones in jueteng.

With 120 million to 150 million text messages crossing mobile phone networks daily, the Philippines has been dubbed the texting capital of the world.

Cruz said Ms Arroyo only had herself to blame for the texters' revolt against her alleged involvement in electoral fraud. "She just won't admit it despite having been found out."

More jokes coming

Cruz said more anti-GMA and anticorruption jokes were coming. "We expect to post the first 50 text jokes by 1 a.m., June 20, so media and the public could spread and broadcast them," he said.

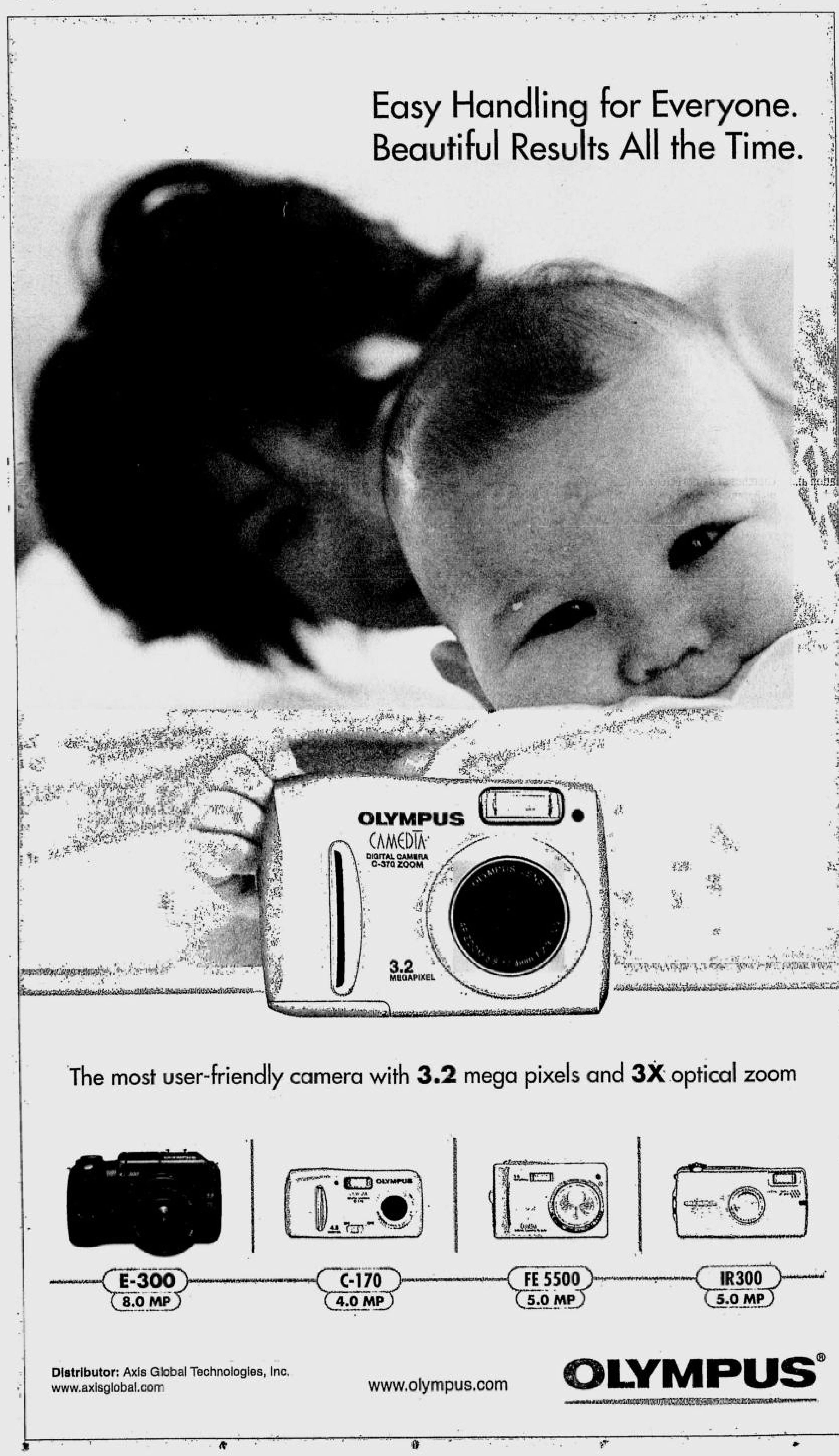
The stunt is meant to force Ms Arroyo to "finally react [to] the tape issue."

Malacañang has denied any wrongdoing, but Ms Arroyo has not personally denied she was the person on the tape. The whereabouts of Garcillano are not known.

Activists used text messages in 2001 to mobilize huge crowds that eventually culminated in the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada. Estrada, who was succeeded by then Vice President Arroyo, is in detention while being tried for alleged massive corruption.

Aside from ring tones and text jokes, TXTPower said protest photos and artwork would soon be posted on its website.

Sites helping out txtpower.org include Indymedia QC, Yugatech, Pinoyblog, Ploghost, and Gazette Philippines. *With a report from AFP*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A BURMESE refugee child holds a poster of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the late Mahatma Gandhi. AP

Cory, activists pledge to help Suu Kyi crusade

From page A1

long-standing calls by the international community for her freedom. The Nobel Peace Prize laureate has spent almost 10 of the last 16 years in confinement.

"I continue to pray for her, that she will finally get justice," said Aquino, who assumed power in 1986 after helping lead the struggle to oust Philippine strongman Ferdinand Marcos. She has lobbied for Suu Kyi's release for many years.

Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, a political detainee during Marcos' rule, said she sent birthday greetings and a statement of support to Suu Kyi, pledging to continue to work with other Southeast Asian legislators to press Burma's military rulers to democratize.

"The most befitting present I could offer to reflect the esteem and admiration I hold for Aung San Suu Kyi is my commitment to action ... until she and the people of Burma are free," Rosales said in her letter.

Rosales filed a resolution early this year asking the House of Representatives to prod the government to oppose Burma's coming chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) unless the junta freed Suu Kyi and other dissidents and fulfilled its promise to democratize.

On Friday, left-wing activists brought a cake and balloons marked "Free Aung San Suu Kyi" to the Burmese Embassy and demanded her immediate release. They dispersed without any incident or arrests.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said Asean was hopeful there would be a response from Burma on Suu Kyi at its ministerial meeting July 24-29 in Vientiane, Laos.

"All of us are waiting with bated breath," Romulo told reporters on Friday on his return from the Group of 77 and China meeting in Doha, Qatar.

The military has ruled Burma since 1962, and the current junta came to power in 1988 after crushing a pro-democracy uprising. It called elections in 1990 but refused to hand over power when Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, won in a landslide.

Nikko Dizon, AP

Military exercises rattle Metro folk

By Luige A. del Puerto

SOME 200 fully armed soldiers swooped down on an old building in the heart of Pasig City about an hour after Saturday midnight.

Then yesterday afternoon, armored vehicles of the Armed Forces descended on the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City, rattling nerves of onlookers as rumors of impending martial rule swept Metro Manila.

But Armed Forces officials said there was nothing to worry about. There were no coups or the beginnings of martial law, but a military simulation in Pasig and a recruitment effort in Cubao.

The soldiers in Pasig City were members of the country's elite antiterrorism unit, according to Capt. Ramon Zagala, information officer of the Armed Forces National Capital Region Command.

They simulated a hostage-taking by members of the "Abu Sayyaf." They chose the former jail complex inside the capitol compound in Pasig City because they needed more space, and they wanted to make the simulation as realistic as possible, Zagala said.

They were armed to the teeth with semi-automatic weapons and night vision goggles.

The exercises were aimed at improving the soldiers' skills against destabilizers and terrorists, said Pasig police director Senior Supt. Celso Beltran, quoting the AFP's coordination sheet.

In Cubao, the AFP displayed military vehicles, equipment and men in an effort to recruit young men to the military.

The program, which included a "battle of the bands" among the different units of the military, started at 3 p.m. and ended well into the night.

The military set up tents at the back of the Araneta Center, and soldiers simply had a good time, said Maj. Rafael Briones of the Marines. *With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Arroceros Park activists invoke Rizal

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A TREE, a song, a plea.

Activists and environmentalists yesterday led a group of urban poor children in planting a special tree at the Arroceros Park in Manila to celebrate the birthday of national hero Jose Rizal.

Running priest Robert Reyes and Winner Foundation also called for the preservation of the park amid attempts to construct a teachers' building within the forest area.

"Today, we speak to Mayor Lito Atienza and Education Secretary Butch Abad and ask them to listen to Rizal, whose love for nature was the source of his deep faith in God and love for the Motherland," Reyes said, celebrating Mass by the Pasig River.

Gary Granada sang to emphasize the importance of nature, after which a molave tree was planted in honor of the national hero.

Winner Foundation president Regina Paterno said they wanted to show the extent of the damage done by Manila City Hall's recent excavations to make way for the new building.

"They killed more than a hundred trees with the excavations," she lamented.

Death catches woman on bus

A WOMAN, believed to be suffering from a terminal illness, vomited blood then fell dead on board a bus on Edsa in Quezon City shortly after midnight Saturday.

Police identified the victim as Judith Pantorilla, a native of Oas, Albay.

Pantorilla was on a St. Jude Transit bus when passenger Jose Mendoza Jr. saw her vomiting blood just as the bus reached Edsa near Boni Serrano, police said.

Mendoza tried to administer first aid on the victim, but could not revive her, police said.

She was brought to the hospital but was already dead on arrival, police said.

Investigators said Pantorilla was on vacation in the city and had planned to go back home to Oas for treatment. *DJ Yap*

Makati looks back as it moves forward

By Tarra V. Quismundo

PROGRESSIVE, but with its past preserved.

Striking a tricky balance between development and remembrance, Makati City has begun looking back at centuries' worth of history, to relive a past that may well be more fascinating than its tallest skyscraper.

Aiming to instill pride of place among its residents, the local government of Makati has started a meticulous and detailed trace of its past, raring to create a tangible reminder of its history: the Makati Heritage Zone.

"The common misconception is that Makati is a recent community, because it rose with the Central Business District," said Joey Salgado, Makati information and community relations head.

Since the city's history spans more than three centuries, Salgado said the local government thought of reviving the past by turning historic areas into living, interactive relics.

"We want to provide a physical structure where you will find the city's heritage, for the residents to see what Makati was like, especially during the Spanish period," said Salgado.

Initial plans of the Heritage Zone Committee show that the heritage zone would include streets within Barangay Poblacion and portions of Guadalupe Viejo (Old Guadalupe), the seat of the colonial Makati community that grew along the Pasig River.

Set to make up the historical microcosm are J.P. Rizal and P. Burgos Streets, the northern end of Makati Avenue, and the Pasig River bank on Makati's side.

The heritage zone includes the churches of Saints Peter and Paul in Barangay Poblacion, and the Nuestra Señora de Gracia in Guadalupe Viejo, Catholic churches built during the Spanish colonial period.

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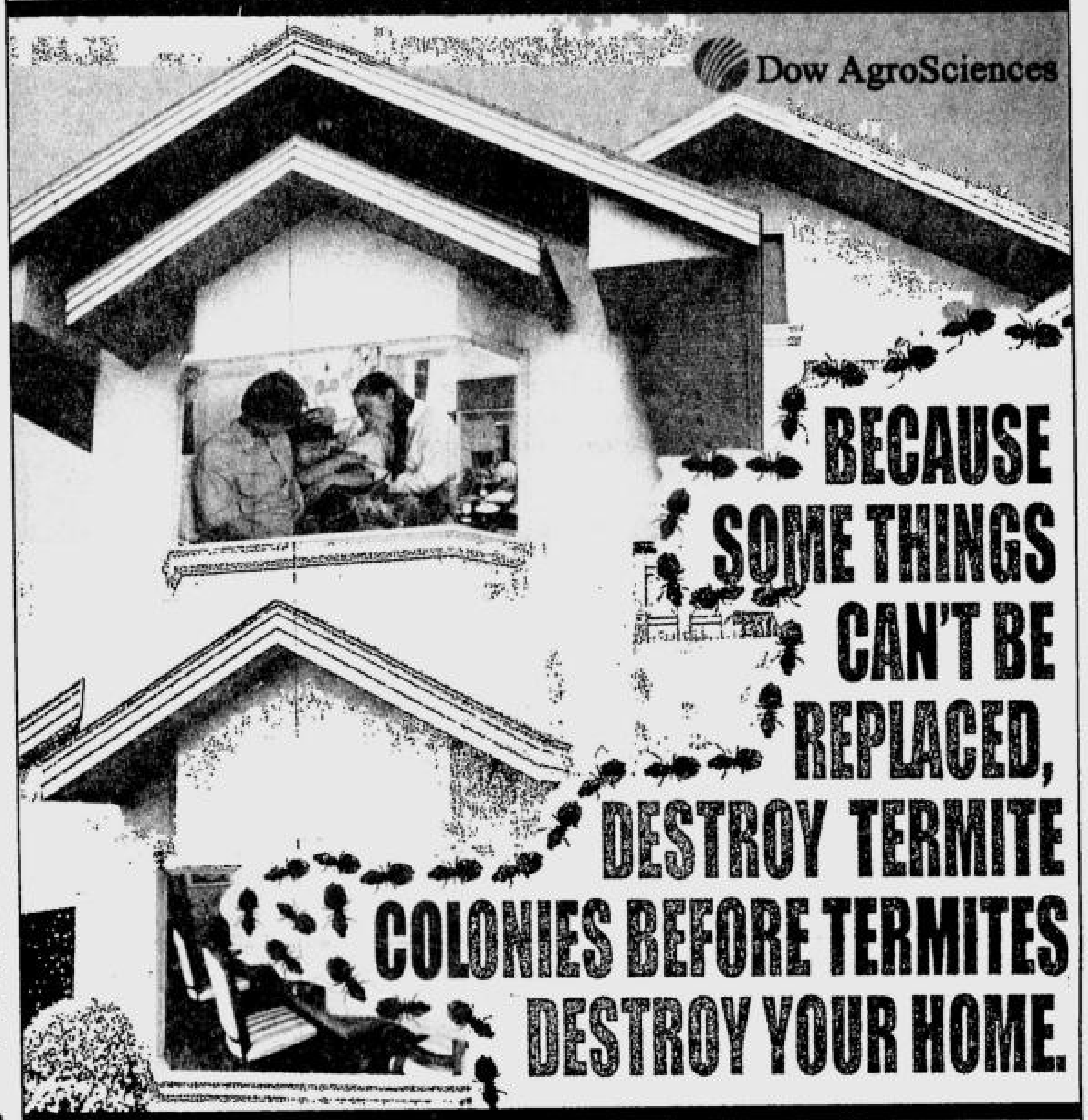
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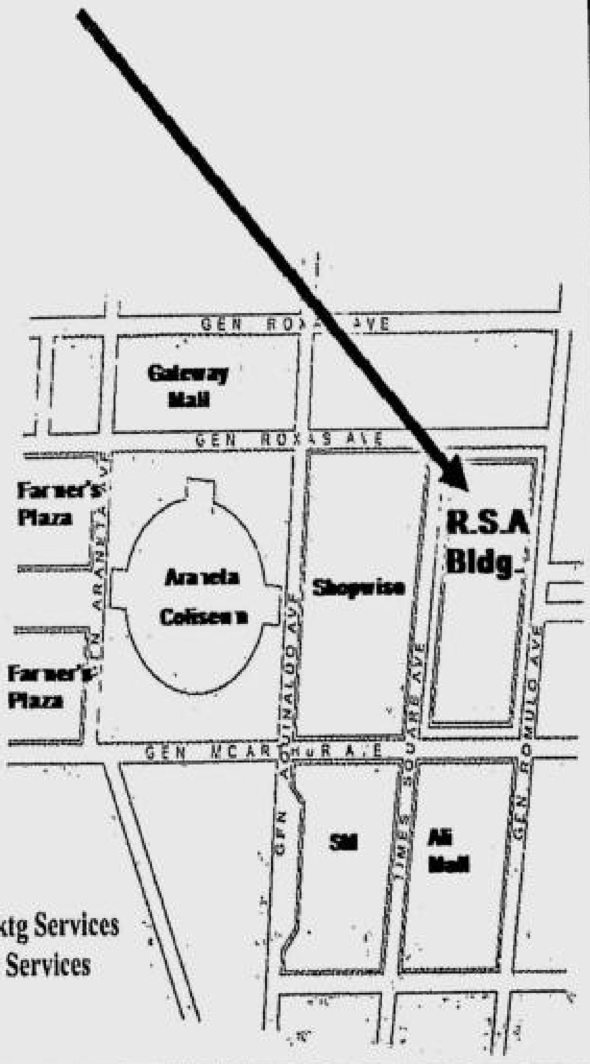

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Hot days mere interlude, says weather bureau

By Norman Bordadora

WONDERING why the sun is still shining bright and the weather is still searing hot when the rainy season has supposedly come to the country?

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) yesterday said that the wet season did not mean having rain every day and that the sun would not be able to beam through clouds.

Pagasa forecaster Bobby Rivera explained that countries north of the equator were still in the summer season, with the northern hemisphere receiving most of the solar rays and heat as it was tilted toward the sun.

"The general perception is that summer in the country is only over March, April and May. But summer really stretches beyond that," Rivera told the INQUIRER, explaining the humidity in the midst of a supposed rainy climate.

The temperature range yesterday was 25 degrees Centigrade to 34 degrees Centigrade.

Rivera said the atmosphere in the northern hemisphere—the area north of the equator, and where the Philippines lies—will start to cool when it tilts away from the sun.

"Right now, there is no tropical cyclone threatening the country," Rivera said, partly explaining the lack of rain, especially in Metro Manila.

More rains are expected over central northern Luzon as it continues to be affected by the frontal system. Likewise, rains are expected over the Visayas and Mindanao as they are affected by the intertropical convergence zone.

"The rest of the country, including Metro Manila, will have fair weather," Rivera said.

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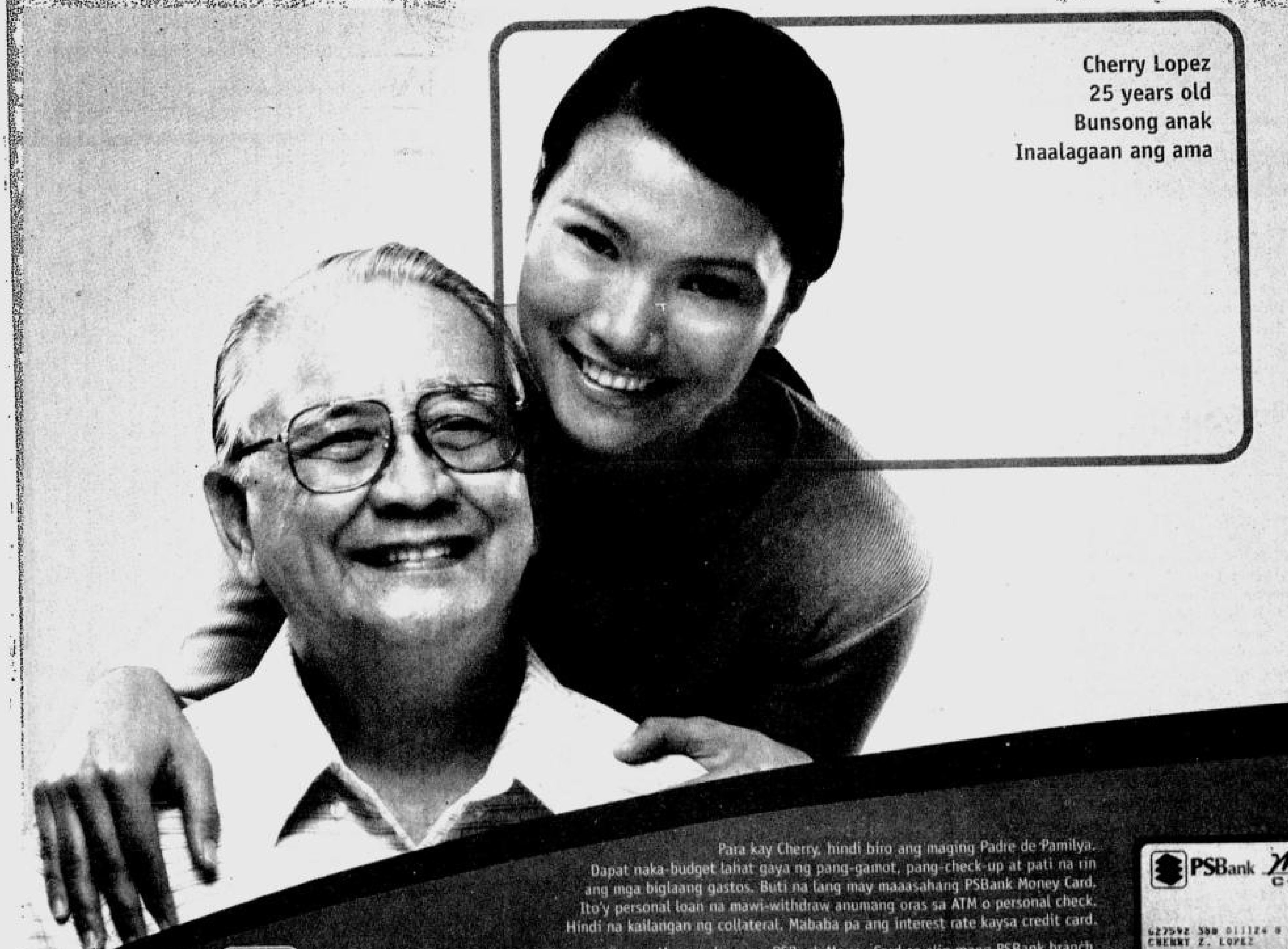

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Rested Pals outclass Chargers

By June Navarro

EXPECTED to be rusty after a long break, the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals frustrated their detractors and the Shell Turbo Chargers as well.

Victor Pablo and Willie Miller came up with heads-up plays and the Phone Pals needed only three quarters to whip the Turbo Chargers, 97-74, and seize the opener of their Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference semifinal series last night.

"Good thing we're not rusty," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal, whose Phone Pals enjoyed a three-week vacation after grabbing the No. 1 seat in the elimination round and the automatic semifinal slot that went with it.

"We hope to continue playing this way because I'm sure Shell will make major adjustments come Wednesday," added Banal.

In drawing first blood in the best-of-five series, the Phone Pals extended their mastery of the Turbo Chargers to seven straight since the elimination round of the Philippine Cup last conference.

The Phone Pals, who drubbed Shell twice in this conference prior to their playoff clash, are also seeking to duplicate a 3-0 sweep of the Turbo Chargers in the semifinal phase of the Philippine Cup.

In the other game, Dondon Hontiveros made seven of San Miguel Beer's last 11 points as the Beermen completed a comeback from 14 points down to repulse the Red Bull Barako, 89-81, and clinch Game 1 of their own series.

Pablo scored all his 17 points in the first three quarters while Jimmy Alapag pumped in 12 of his 17 in the final period as the Phone Pals put the outcome beyond doubt.

Miller tossed in 15 points, all of them in the third quarter, while Mark Telan and Jerald Honeycutt added 12 and nine each for the Phone Pals, who played games in Australia to keep them in shape during their break.

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
(Game 2 best-of-five semifinals)
4:45 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs San Miguel Beer
7:35 p.m.—Shell vs Talk N Text

The Phone Pals lost their three tune-up games Down Under, twice against National Basketball League champion Sydney Kings and once against an Australian Basketball Association selection.

With a hurting groin, Ajani Williams came up with only seven points on two-of-nine shooting while Billy Mamaril, Tony Dela Cruz and Rich Alvarez also finished in single digits.

Roger Yap had 17 points for the Turbo Chargers, who got badly beaten off the boards, 66-37.

The scores:

First Game

TALK 'N TEXT 97—Alapag 17, Pablo 17, Miller 15, Telan 12, Honeycutt 9, Carey 8, Camaso 5, Belano 5, De Ocampo 4, Gelig 2, Fran 2, Ravena 1.

SHELL 74—Yap 17, Ferreria 8, Mamaril 8, Dela Cruz 8, Sta. Maria 7, Williams 7, Calaguio 6, Alvarez 5, Sharma 2, Sotto 2, Tubid 2, Bajar 2, Cruz 0.

Quarters: 20-15, 44-31, 72-50, 97-74.

Second Game

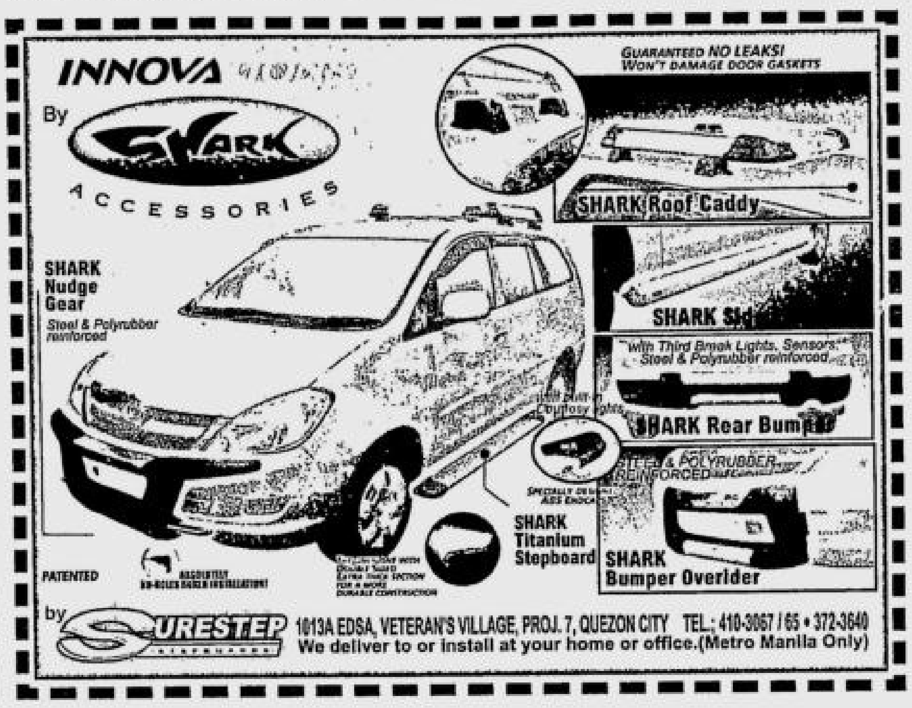
SAN MIGUEL 89—Burgess 18, Racela 17, Hontiveros 17, Ildefonso 16, Pena 11, Belasco 7, Adriano 2, Lopez 1, Mente 0.

RED BULL 81—Barron 28, Villanueva 12, Tugade 9, Ejercito 7, Gahol 6, Asaytono 5, Torion 5, Meneses 3, Robinson 2, Baguio 2, Felhl 2, Ybañez 0.

Quarters: 18-24, 40-52, 63-64, 89-81.

CHAIRMAN'S Office drubbed PBA Press Corps, 105-72, and ABC-5 edged Commissioner's Office, 77-71, yesterday to arrange a finals showdown in the Raffy Japa Cup tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

PBA chair Buddy Encarnado scattered 14 of his game-high 17 points in the fourth quarter for the Prisoners of Wives, who are unbeaten in seven matches of the tourney held in honor of the founding head of the PBA Press Corps and sponsored by ABC-5, San Miguel Corp, Cindy's Tacloban and Nature's Spring.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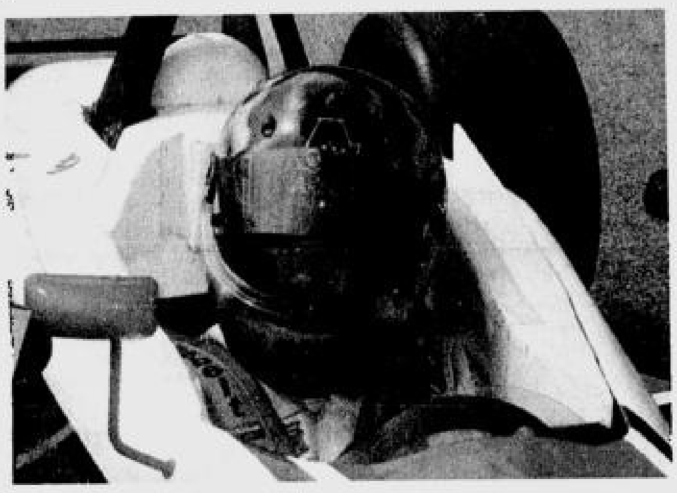


THE PHILIPPINES' Tyson Sy settles for third after a slow start.

ZHUHAI ASIAN F-3

Mikola strikes again in fifth round; Sy 3rd

GUANGDONG, China—Nowhere near the leaders during practice and the qualifying rounds, Indonesian Ananda Mikola stamped his class when it mattered most Saturday, ruling Round 5 of the Asian Formula Three series at the Zhuhai International Circuit here.

Mikola found the dry conditions to his liking and made a tremendous start from sixth place on the starting grid. He seized the lead halfway through the first lap from slow-starting Filipino Tyson Sy and Briton James Winslow, then fended off the repeated charges of Winslow to fashion out the swashbuckling victory before an enthusiastic crowd at the 4.3-km Zhuhai circuit.

"To be honest, I wasn't expecting to win," said Mikola of Fastron Racing with Threebond who opened a one-second lead over Winslow after the first lap and was never headed.

Mikola won with a time of 17:46.742 minutes, padding his series-leading total from 75 to 95 points. He stood 33 points in front of second-running Christian Jones of Australia who skipped this weekend's races in favor of teammate Rodolfo Avila of Macau.

The Indonesians posted a double kill as Mikola's half-brother, Soeprapto Moreno of Denso Hanjin Joson F3, clocked 18:48.525 to win the Promotions Class race.

Irishman Greg Murphy of Ambi Pur Team Goddard and Robert Block of Denso Hanjin Joson F3 finished second and third, respectively. *(Race enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net for more details.)*

A many-time Formula Ford champion, Winslow of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO started second on the grid and eventually settled for runner-up honors in 17:48.361. He moved from sixth place to third with 35 points in the Overall class.

Sy, the 17-year-old Promotions Class champion last year, matched his Round 3 achievement with yet another third-place finish in 18:05.612. But he described it as a "big disappointment" considering his high-octane performance in the practice and qualifying rounds.

"I felt a clicking sound in my engine," said the Speedtech Asia driver.

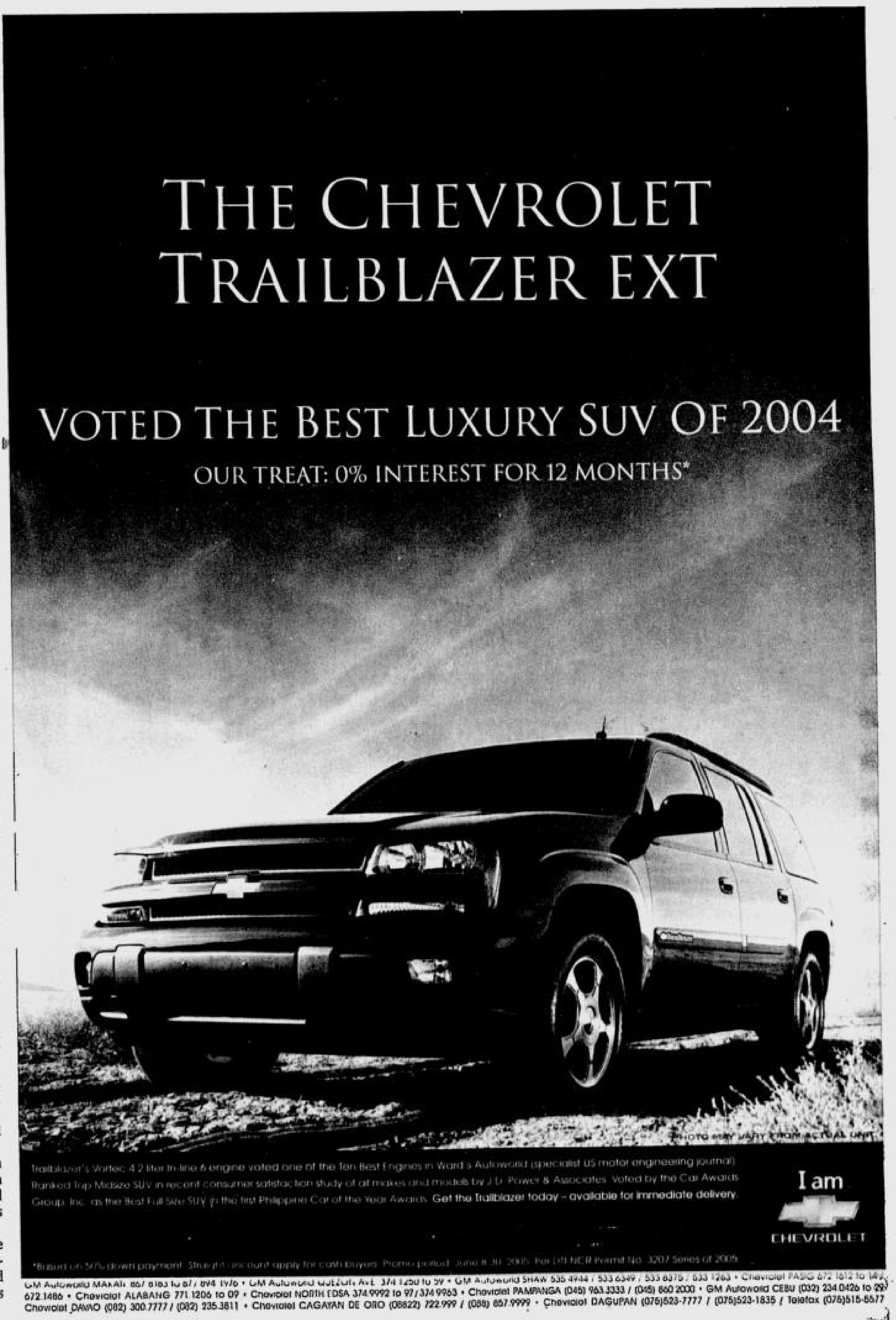
Filipino Dado Peña of Ambi Pur Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia was speared from the side by John O'Hara of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO in the second lap, causing both their cars to stall.

Peña initially contested third with Sy but it all ended for him and O'Hara at turn 4 of the second lap.

The 17-year-old Avila finished fourth in 18:22.585.

Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO's Pepon Marave, the Filipino AF3 champion in 2003, was fifth in 18:28.506 and moved up the overall standings from fifth to fourth with 34 points.

Completing the top seven were Jo Rosa-Mersei of Fujitsu Ten Toyota Team Tom's (18:40.529) and Enzo Pastor of Team TEC Pilipinas (18:42.621).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Tigresses, Lady Eagles duel for lead

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas and Ateneo collide today in an early clash of the leaders in the semifinal round of the 2005 Shakey's V-League first conference at the Rizal Coliseum.

Santo Tomas swept San Sebastian, 25-13, 28-26, 25-20, at the start of the double-round semifinal phase last Saturday and Ateneo stunned heavy favorite and eliminations topnotcher La Salle, 19-25, 25-15, 25-23, 25-17.

That makes the UST-Ateneo match at 5 p.m. doubly interesting with the Tigresses out to keep their title-retention bid going and the Lady Eagles raring to prove that they are a force to reckon with in the tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and organized by Sports Vision Management Group Inc.

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
3 p.m.—La Salle vs San Sebastian
5 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST

The Lady Archers, meanwhile, try to recover lost ground as they try to snap an alarming three-game skid against the Lady Stags.

The La Salle-San Sebastian contest, set at 3 p.m., will be shown on IBC-13 starting at 7 tonight while the UST-Ateneo game will be aired tomorrow, also at 7 p.m.

After a roller-coaster ride in the eliminations, UST seemed to have finally found its old devastating form and the Tigresses underscored this by thumping the Lady Stags, the biggest revelation in this event backed by Accel,Mikasa, Dunkin' Donuts, IBC 13 and Jemah Television.

But focus will surely be on the Lady Eagles.

Making their first appearance in this top-level tournament featuring the best collegiate teams in the country, the Katipunan-based spikers fought back from a set down and repulsed the Lady Archers in four sets.

Michelle Laborte, who led Ateneo's attack with 19 points, is again expected to spearhead the team's bid against UST along with Amelia Guanco, Iris Ortega and Cecille Tabuena, who combined for 32 points for the Lady Eagles.

But they will be up against a solid UST crew led by Mary Jean Balse, the first conference MVP, Roxanne Pimentel and Venus Bernal.

SORIANO
IRATAY
9

ATENEO'S Ma. Rosario Soriano (left) blocks La Salle's Manilla Santos during their match Saturday. Helping Soriano is Ma. Theresa Iratay. RYAN LIM

Tagaytay, Tacloban-A forge title showdown

POWERHOUSE Tagaytay City and Tacloban City A posted similar close victories Saturday to forge a showdown for the 2005 National Open Chess Team Championship at the St. Michael College Gym in Iligan City.

Grandmaster Joey Antonio and Allan Macala produced full points to lift Tagaytay past gritty Davao City, 1.5-0.5, in their two-game series. Tacloban also booked a seat in the finals at the expense of Sum-Ag NHS via the same margin.

Jimmy Dano and Peter Tidoy beat Tagaytay's Rodolfo Panopio and Edmundo Gatus to force a 2-2 standoff in the first match.

However, Antonio and Macala reasserted their supremacy over National Master Prospero Cruz and Nofre Reyes and Gatus drew his match to hand Tagaytay a narrow 2.5-1.5 win in the second match.

The first match proved to be the clincher for Tacloban as NM Rodolfo Diaz and Julius Estardo beat NM Hamed Nouri and Raymund dela Peña. Melvin Merelos drew with Ted Ian Montoyo to complete a 2.5-1.5 victory.

Desamito, Yambao rule 10K

BERNARDO Desamito Jr. and Liza Yambao ruled the First RunWestin Manila on a course that started and ended at the Westin Philippine Plaza south parking lot yesterday.

Desamito withstood the challenge by Cresenciano Sabal to claim the men's 10-K crown in 31 minutes and 54 seconds. Sabal came in five seconds later. Bowen Montecillo settled for third at 32:26.

Yambao topped the women's race in 42:17 and won P10,000.

Westin Philippine Plaza general manager Shane Cunning said Desamito will represent the country in the Bridge Run Marathon in Australia. Desamito will be flown to Sydney via Cathay Pacific and will stay at the Westin Sydney.

Yambao was followed at the finish by 40-year-old Mila Paje in 43:56, with Anna Whitehouse third in 47:30 in the race held in partnership with Cathay Pacific and Transnational Diversified Group and supported by Smart, NIKE, Gourmet and Sun Bolt Sports Drink.

From Bacolod, in defense of Manny Pacquiao

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

HIS name is Irwin Castella. He writes all the way from charming Bacolod to correct my impression on Manny Pacquiao.

Spare him, begs this friendly Ilonggo.

Before everything else, I've got to thank Mr. Castella for helping me back onto the rush-rush rat road after my annual break.

Says he: "Leave Pacquiao alone, Manny is one of the flickering lights left in our dimming horizon."

Sound advice, graceful prose: "Manny's defeat can never be a risk to himself and to us the whole Filipino nation. He will come out of it a better man. And never a risk."

* * *

Thanks, I stand corrected.

Of course, it has become clear that Mr. Castella took me to task for having said that Pacquiao was a risky model for the President of the Philippines, Madame Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Again, you've scored a big point.

Pacquiao did not bother to hide anything, he gave all in that fateful fight—including his inferior skills—against Erik Morales.

Pacquiao indeed was not a GMA who'd grab at anything just to stay afloat, if not make a turnaround any day.

* * *

Now, let's get to the core of the post-fight analysis from Bacolod: "Morales, I agree, was the better polished fighter, but whoever was the better fighter is beside the point. The fact is, to us Filipinos, Pacquiao is Braveheart and Forrest Gump combined. Or better yet FPJ as Panday. He was the underdog who went against all odds. He inspires us. Manny Pacquiao is not GMA's model alone. Pacquiao is our model. He poured out blood, sweat and tears for his personal gain and for our country's glory."

Touche. Then, as a KO blow, Mr. Castella hastens to ask: "How many journalistic boo-boos and *kuryentes* sports columnists had experienced before they become to be known. We had never known how many, but we never had considered them risky. We continue reading their works."

* * *

Thank you very kindly.

Of course, it may help to set the record straight that Pacquiao was never the underdog in that last fight.

He was the favorite and behaved like one, to the point of being noisy.

"Did Trinidad," continues Mr. Castella, "forget the nasty cut above the eye. With blood covering one eye, Manny found it so hard to fight a well-calibrated fighter. Did Trinidad ever try typing a column with a Bare Eye closed?"

Well, I happened to be at ringside and I sincerely thought Pacquiao had stood a good chance at winning after a sensational first round.

* * *

Yes, Pacquiao could've won that big one, with or without the nasty cut.

Pacquiao could've won if he had come properly prepared to fight a superior foe.

Problem: Pacquiao had, all the while, thought and insisted Morales would be there for the taking.

In fact, Pacquiao had told this reporter a good month before the fight that he had perceived a mismatch.

Said he: "Morales, I'd only play and toy with him. *Si Barrera nga, pinaglaruan ko lang.*"

What happened inside the ring at the MGM Grand on March 19 was a complete reversal of what Pacquiao had loudly predicted.

Morales had the usual slow start. But after he settled down in the second round, the Mexican macho man proceeded to reduce Pacquiao to a pupil receiving on-scene instructions from a master.

* * *

The eye-cut was not an entirely empty alibi.

However, records show that Pacquiao was behind on points when he was injured in the fifth round.

If the cut had been inflicted at a point when Pacquiao was either ahead or was in control, it would've been both crucial and decisive.

Now, let's go straight to the point.

Pacquiao proved inferior against Morales because of built-in or self-inflicted incompetence.

Pacquiao had sincerely and honestly felt he was superior to his foe.

Pacquiao definitely knew and felt how good and strong he was.

But he was totally blind about the total capability of Morales.

Pacquiao was not fully prepared to box a superior, more competent opponent who also came in at his best.

In fact, Pacquiao would later blame his footwork and admit he should've fought better.

He took a silly risk, but we also have to respect well-meaning fans that refuse to call Pacquiao incompetent.

He lost, but Pacquiao gets the applause for leaving the ring heroic.

Pacquiao moves up to junior lightweight

MANNY Pacquiao has decided to relinquish his Ring Magazine featherweight title to concentrate on campaigning in the junior lightweight division.

The Filipino champion announced his decision through a faxed letter to Ring Magazine editor in chief Nigel Collins last Friday, according to Ring Magazine Philippine correspondent Ted Lerner.

"I look forward to gaining The Ring belt in my new weight class soon," Lerner quoted Pacquiao as saying in his letter.

With his decision, Lerner said The Ring editors installed Pacquiao at the No. 3 slot among the 130-pounders behind Marco Antonio Barrera and Erik Morales. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

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WORLD VOLLEY

Cubans lead cast in Manila GP stop

THREE-TIME Olympic gold medalist Cuba leads four crack teams seeing action in the Manila leg of the 2005 FIVB World Grand Prix Women's Volleyball slated July 1-3 at the PhilSports Arena.

Joining Cuba in the three-day event organized by the Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association are Italy, Thailand and the Netherlands. Cash prizes at stake are $35,000 (champion), $25,000 (second), $20,000 (third) and $15,000 (fourth).

"Everybody looks forward to the World Grand Prix because it offers exciting matches," said FIVB development officer Ramon "Tats" Suzara.

The Cubans, also owners of four World Championship titles, will be returning to the Philippines with fond memories, having won their second and last World Grand Prix title five years ago at the Araneta Coliseum. Cuba won the inaugural staging in Hong Kong in 1993.

Leading the hard-hitting Cuban squad are last year's best spiker Yumilka Ruiz and young talents Zoila Barros Fernandez, Ana Ibis Fernandez, Marta Sanches Salfran, Yanelia Santos and Nancy Carillo dela Paz.

One of four countries which has competed in all Grand Prix, Cuba is expected to face a strong challenge from Italy, whose silver medal last year was its best performance in the Grand Prix.

Thailand, currently No. 17 in the FIVB world rankings, is out to improve on its 10th-place finish last year with a tall lineup.

The Netherlands boasts of a solid defense, which was the key to its seat in the Grand Prix.

Other countries competing in this year's World Grand Prix are Japan, Korea, Poland, Germany, Dominican Republic, China, USA.

Sweeties rout Orchard bets; Riviera downs Wack Wack

Standings (win-draw-loss-points)

JW BLUE: Canlubang 1-1-0-5, Orchard 1-1-1-3, Forest Hills 1-1-0-3, Eastridge 0-2-0-2, Mimosa 0-2-2-2; **JW GOLD:** Southwoods 2-1-0-6, Northwoods 2-1-0-6, Highlands 0-0-3-0, Sherwood Hills 0-0-2-0; **JW GREEN:** Wack Wack 2-0-1-4, Manila Golf 1-2-0-4, Valley 1-1-0-3, Sta. Elena 1-1-2-3, Riviera 1-0-2-2

CANLUBANG scored a masterful 4-0 sweep of erstwhile unbeaten Orchard and zoomed to the top of the Johnnie Walker Blue group in the 2005 Johnnie Walker-Federation Golf League matches over the weekend.

Tony Olives and Raoul Jorge went 10 under through 14 holes in scramble to pull off a lopsided 5-and-4 victory, capping the Canlubang sweep for an extra point that boosted the Laguna squad's total to 5 points.

Desi Hebron-Danny Morales (foursomes), Marco Olives-Bing Bunye (high-low) and Gerry Silva-Matthew Manotoc all hacked out similar 3-and-2 wins to complete the domination of Orchard which had two wins and a draw in its first three matches. Orchard dropped to a tie for second with Forest Hills.

Sharing the limelight with Canlubang was Riviera, which broke out of a two-game losing skid by handing Wack Wack a 3-1 loss to bounce back into contention in the Johnnie Walker Green group of the event also supported by the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. and organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs in the Philippines Inc.

Club president Danny Pizarro-Jon Judan (foursomes) and Eric Gozo-Chito Ilumin (scramble) won their matches while Bobby Celestino-Peping Nepomuceno and Bobby Inigo-Migs Garcia (aggregate) settled for draws to slap Wack Wack its first loss after opening with back-to-back wins.

Defending champion Royal Northwoods handed a struggling Tagaytay Highlands a 3-1 defeat to wrest back a share of the lead with a resting Manila Southwoods at 6 points in the Johnnie Walker Gold division.

Erwin Temenia-Andrei Cornejo and Park San-ho-King Sumulong won the scramble and foursomes, respectively, to salvage a 2-2 draw for Eastridge against Mimosa after Jason Tai-Joven Liwanag (high-low) and Tet Limjoco-Abe Tayag won the first two points for the host team.

Manila Golf, meanwhile, secured a leadership tie with Wack Wack in JW-Green play despite a 2-2 draw with host Sta. Elena.

Venjo Reyes-Junjun Lopez and Ishiro Shekiya-Bryan Cockrell won in high-low and aggregate for Sta. Elena but Manila Golf battled back through Jason Lim-JP Reyes in scramble and Alex Prieto-OV Espiritu in the foursomes.

Mercado powers Tribu Sugbu cagers

MINGLANILLA, Cebu—Defending champion Tribu Sugbu got a big lift from comebacking Marvin Mercado in the homestretch to pull off a 73-67 victory over gritty Valencia Golden Harvest Saturday in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Sports Center here.

Playing his first game with the Skygo/Sirlitz-backed Cebuanos, the 6-foot-6 Mercado scored seven of his nine points late in the payoff period to propel his team to its third win in four games.

Over at the San Dionisio gym in Parañaque, Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz Cotta bounced back from a shocking loss to Northern Conference frontrunner Forward Taguig by whipping Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana's Jets, 76-65.

It was the sixth win in seven games for Ozamiz in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam Corp., KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Ping Ping Lechon, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday-Plaza Cebu.

Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Golden Harvest led 39-33 at halftime and 50-49 going into the final period. But they quickly lost the upper hand when Mercado exploited the foul trouble of his guard, Franklin Nailon, to score crucial points.

The Cebuanos of Lito Gillamac and Mario King remained unscathed in 13 games at home, dating back to last season.

The scores:

TRIBU SUGBU 73—Binongo 17, Almacin 14, Bucao 13, Mercado 9, Ursal 7, Mangubat 4, Cainglet 3, Magsumbol 2, Luga 2, Paglinawan 2, Briones 0, Pening 0, Reyes 0, Ferraren 0

VALENCIA 67—Cabili 13, Celiz 11, Berami 10, Toring 10, Adams 8, Nailon 7, Tallgatos 5, Clavel 2, Gragasin 1, Madera 0, Culdora 0, Bayron 0, Cesar 0, Mojado 0

Quarters: 25-17, 33-39, 49-50, 73-67

OZAMIZ 76—Bansil 19, Cabigkis 17, Alvarado 10, Sampilo 9, Libatog 6, Nicdao 5, Butel 4, Ilanga 4, Liangco 2, Csonmigo 0, Basco 0, Aquino 0, Cortes 0, Delina 0, Caylan 0

PARAÑAQUE 65—Basilides 18, Marquez 17, Rodriguez 6, Lopez 5, Bognot 5, Saquilayan 5, Tolentino 3, Yambao 3, Guiyab 2, Araman 1, Aquitania 0, Ruiz 0

Quarters: 26-14, 39-33, 52-55, 76-65.

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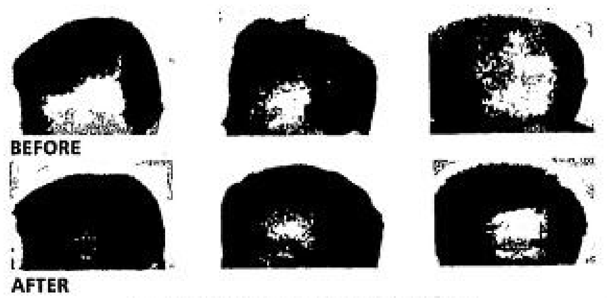

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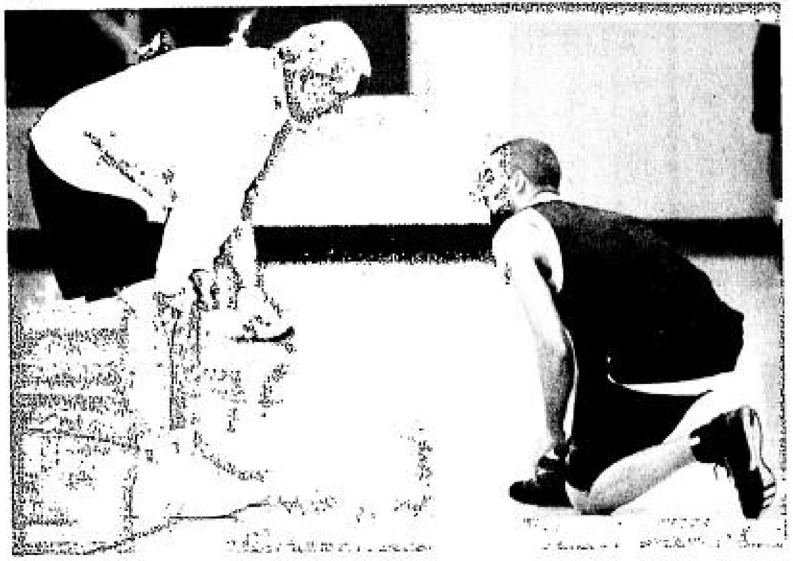


SAN ANTONIO head coach Gregg Popovich (left) talks to guard Tony Parker during practice. Both agree on the importance of stealing a win in Detroit. REUTERS

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—No matter what happens in the remainder of the NBA Finals, Sunday night's Game Five will be the last time the champion Detroit Pistons play at home this season.

That is good news for the San Antonio Spurs, who get home court advantage for the rest of the series.

Home court has so far proved a distinct advantage in the best-of-seven series which is tied 2-2.

The Spurs recorded two lopsided wins in San Antonio before the Pistons hit back with two crushing victories at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

"This is the most important game we'll ever play, and I really believe that," said Detroit coach Larry Brown.

"I think we're going to have to play our very best because obviously they have not lost at home very much. We haven't won there in 10 years, I think."

Sunday's game will mark the 85th consecutive sell-out at The Palace, one of the most intimidating arenas in the NBA.

"This crowd definitely makes a huge difference," said Ben Wallace, a favorite of the Detroit fans.

"As an opponent, if you can't play in front of a hostile crowd, then you can't play in The Palace."

San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich understands how important a win on the road would be for his team.

"It's a huge game as far as I look at it. I think it's monstrous to try and get the fifth game," Popovich said.

Even though the Spurs will have the last two games on their home court, where they rarely lose and where they destroyed the Pistons in the opening two games, San Antonio still thinks it needs a victory in Detroit.

"Everybody knows it's a must-win tomorrow, we definitely need to get this one," said Spurs point guard Tony Parker.

"Game Five is coming up and it's the biggest game of the season." *Reuters*

TIGER Woods finds his back against the wall after ma

Watch out for Engert

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ACCORDING to two former world billiards champions and some of the experts I polled in a survey, Germany's Thomas Engert, who is virtually unknown here, is the man to beat in the 2005 Philippine International Open 9-Ball Championship set June 25-29 at Robinsons Galleria.

"Engert is Germany's best today," said Ralf Souquet, the bald-headed German veteran internationalist who won the World Pool 9-Ball Championship in Cardiff in 1996. "He is Europe's top money winner last year and one of the most feared players in professional pool along with Efren Reyes, Francisco Bustamante and Alex Pagulayan," added Souquet, who is skipping this year's Philippine Open due to a previous commitment.

Another German veteran, 2003 World Pool winner Thorsten Hohmann, said Engert is a player with superb credentials who could give the toughest pool pros a run for their money.

Nicknamed "The Lean Machine" because of his razor-sharp execution of a given shot, Engert launched his pro career in 1995. Since then, he has won one tournament after another, mostly in Europe, to become the reigning European 9-ball champion. The winner of the Italian Open and Challenge of Champions, Engert also won the 2004 World Pool Masters and was a member of the European team in the prestigious Mosconi Cup.

Engert will banner a star-studded European cast that also includes Neils Feijen of the Netherlands, 2001 World Pool champion Mika Immonen of Finland, 2004 World Pool semifinalist Marcus Chamat of Sweden, battle-tested Tony Drago of Malta, Konstantin Stepanov of Russia, Majid Imran of Britain and 2003 world champion Hohmann.

Two-time (1992 and 1997) World Pool champion Johnny Archer, a familiar face to Filipino billiards aficionados, will lead a crack delegation from the United States. The other Americans in the field are 2004 Derby Classic Ring Game and 2001 US Open winner Corey Deuel, who is also a frequent Manila visitor; Rodney "Rocket" Morris of Hawaii, the 2003 World Pool League champion who broke into the limelight by beating Reyes in the 1996 US Open finals; and two young but deadly players—Charlie Williams and Gabe Owen, last year's US Open winner.

Archer needs no introduction. A winner of many major tournaments for nearly two decades, Archer is a hot candidate to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame and join Filipino icon Efren Reyes.

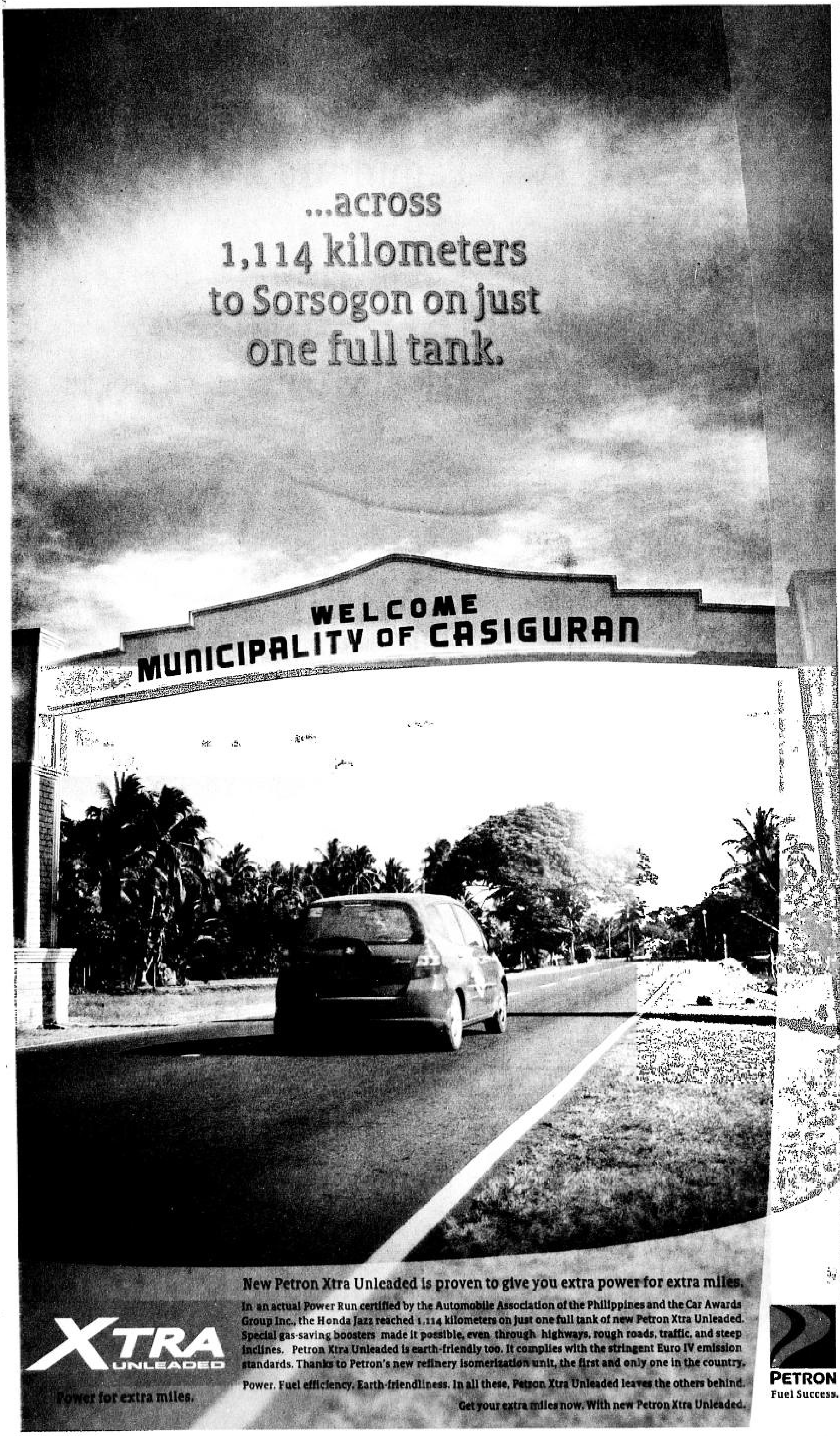
Archer started his career in billiards at the age of 17 and went on to emerge World Pool 9-Ball champion twice. He also won the US Open and the Pro Billiards Tour Association Player of the Year plum in 1997, garnering a total of 1,625 points to beat Reyes and Rodolfo Luat, who amassed 1,415 and 1,275 points, respectively.

Aside from Souquet, also skipping this year's Philippine Open are three-time World Pool 9-Ball winner Earl Strickland of the US and Steve Davis, the six-time English snooker champion. However, their absence will be hardly felt as the game's other big names will be present, among them 1999 World Pool 9-Ball champ Reyes, who is widely regarded as the sport's greatest player in contemporary history; former world No. 1 Bustamante and Pagulayan, the reigning World Pool winner.

Also competing are Chinese Taipei's two-time (1993 and 2000) World Pool 9-Ball champ Chao Fong-pang, Yang Ching-shun, "The Son of Pool" who won the individual gold medal in the 2002 Busan Asian Games; and 16-year-old prodigy Wu Chia-ching. Japan, on the other hand, will bank on Kunihiko Takahashi, who won the World Pool 9-Ball Championship in 1998; and former Japan Open winner Satoshi Kawabata.

Organized by Puyat Sports and Solar Sports, the main tournament will feature 32 of the world's best players in a race-to-9, double elimination and alternate break format on June 27-29, Monday to Wednesday.

Twenty players will be seeded in the main tournament by invitation while the 12 other players will be decided by a qualifying series on June 25 and 26, Saturday and Sunday. The semifinals will be race-to-11 while the finals is race-to-15. First prize money is $20,000.



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ing just one birdie in the third round. AP

Pinehurst tames Tiger, stuns Vijay

PINEHURST, North Carolina—Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh and Sergio Garcia had one birdie between them and one US Open trophy slipping slowly from their grasp.

On a day when the Open never seemed so wide open, the trio set off on a hot afternoon on Saturday to make the charge for the lead that almost everyone expected in the huge crowds massed around Pinehurst No. 2 course.

What they got instead was an old-fashioned lesson from an old-fashioned golf course that frustrated them at every turn.

"Let's get the hell out of here," Woods said to playing partner Rocco Mediate after scrambling to save his par on the final hole.

Woods had more reason to be happy than Singh or Garcia. At least he could go home after a tough day at the office and say he made a birdie. When it came on the 11th hole, he raised his arms, closed his eyes and looked toward the sky. He then licked his index finger and traced a number in the air as if to say, "Chalk one up."

The total for Singh and Garcia? Zilch, zero. No birdies, nothing even really close. *AP*

The Goose cuts loose

Defending champ carries 3-shot lead into last round

PINEHURST, North Carolina—Retief Goosen seized control of the US Open on Saturday with three birdies on the final five holes that gave him a 1-under 69 and a three-shot lead over journeymen Olin Browne and Jason Gore.

The 36-year-old South African is now just 18 holes away from his third US Open title in five years, a chance to join Curtis Strange as the only back-to-back winners in the last 50 years.

"It is nice having a lead going into the last round," Goosen said. "If it was 12 shots, I'd probably be a little more comfortable, but it's going to be a hard day out there tomorrow."

He has history on his side, and no one with any major championship credentials within four shots of him. The last six US Open champions have started the final round with the lead, dating to Payne Stewart at Pinehurst in 1999.

Goosen certainly has the demeanor—birdies and bogeys are met with the same, placid stare—but no one can question he has the game for the toughest test in golf.

"That's what you need on a course like this—no heartbeat and a great short game," Arron Oberholser said.

Goosen finished at 3-under 207 and will play in the final group on Sunday with Gore, who is No. 818 in the world ranking and showed plenty of grit with three nifty par saves and a 15-foot birdie on the final hole for a 72.

Browne, No. 300 in the world who got into the US Open by shooting 59 in a qualifier, also hung tough with birdies on three of the par 3s for a 72 to finish the third round tied with Gore at 210.

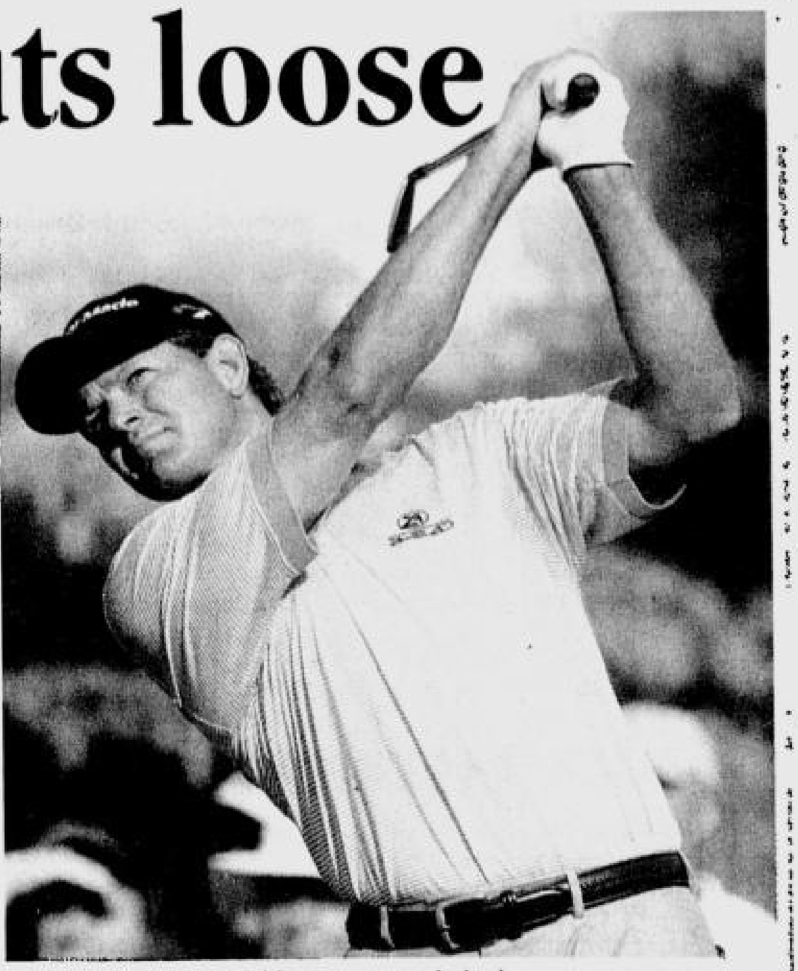
Michael Campbell (71) and Mark Hensby (72) were another stroke behind.

Only Goosen and US Senior Open champion Peter Jacobsen managed to break par in dry, fiery conditions played under a blazing sun, which made the domed greens off limits to all but the most exquisite shots—and Jacobsen needed a hole in one on No. 9 to do it.

David Toms, who gave up five shots on his final two holes on Friday, hit an approach shot that bumped into a bird on the 18th green, then made his 10-foot birdie for a 70 that put him at 2-over 212.

Tiger Woods couldn't hit the fairway with a 2-iron on two of the first three holes and made bogeys, but played even par the rest of the way for a 72 that left him in a group at 3-over 213. Woods has never won when trailing by more than five shots going into the last round on the US PGA Tour.

Vijay Singh (74) failed to make birdie, leaving him at 214 and seven shots behind.



WITH little emotion, Retief Goosen soars to the lead. AP

The only thing keeping Goosen from joining just five other players with at least three US Open titles is Pinehurst No. 2, a course that can dole out punishment at any time.

"Anything can happen on this course," Goosen said. "You can lose three shots very quickly around here."

He lost them on two holes. His tee shot on the 12th went right into a sandy area, he missed the green to the left, and took bogey.

Then came the 378-yard 13th, the toughest hole in the third round. From the left rough, his ball rolled over the crown of the green and left him a delicate chip. *AP*

Nadal says he is not Wimbledon material yet

WIMBLEDON, England—History says Rafael Nadal is unlikely to win Wimbledon this year.

Nadal says the same.

The 19-year-old Spaniard won the French Open on his first try two weeks ago to become the youngest men's Grand Slam champion since 1989. Now he'll try to win Roland Garros and Wimbledon back-to-back, something no man has done since Bjorn Borg in 1980.

In fact, among the French Open men's champions since 1982, only Andre Agassi also earned a Wimbledon title during his career. Agassi won Wimbledon in 1992 and Roland Garros seven years later.

Winning major titles on both clay and grass requires an array of skills that few players possess. And at this point, Nadal says, he's not among them.

"On clay I can win a lot of matches if I play my best tennis," Nadal said. "But it is different on grass. I have to improve, and at the moment I do not have the preparation to go far in a grass-court tournament."

Unlike some French Open champions in the recent past, Nadal speaks enthusiastically about the challenge of playing on grass. He's well aware that the only Spanish man to win Wimbledon was Manuel Santana in 1966, and he said he watched the tournament as a fan growing up in Mallorca.

"I always say Wimbledon, for me, I want to win. For the Spanish players, to win the French Open is the best because it's clay. But if any Spanish player won here, it's unbelievable, no?" *AP*

Meanwhile, Star Sports will be bringing the live and exclusive coverage of the Wimbledon Championships, from June 20-July 3, 2005.

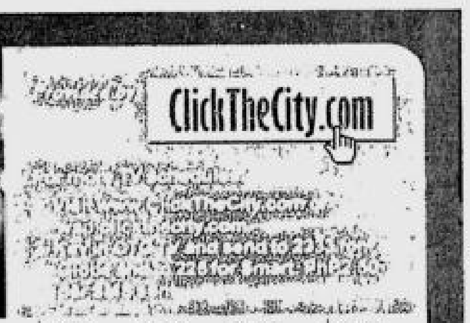
The schedule is as follows: June 20-25: First round to third round, 7 p.m.; June 27-28: Round of 16, 7 p.m.; June 29: Men's and ladies singles quarterfinals, 7 p.m.; June 30: ladies singles semifinals, 7 p.m.; July 1: men's singles semifinals, 7 p.m.; July 2: ladies singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles finals, 8:30 p.m.; July 3: men's singles and women's doubles finals, 8:30 p.m.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Monday June 20 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC



Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Showbiz No. 1	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Qpids	TV Patrol World		Meteor Garden Full Edition	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Memories Of Bali	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
ABC 5					Batas Barangay		TNA Impact		Sentro	Friends	The Apprentice		Fear Factor		Big News	Look Who's Talking		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Recca	Full House	24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		All About Eve	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	The Insider	NBA On RPN					Biggest Loser		Newswatch Now	Sex & the City	Cerge For Truth	
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Home Shopping Network		Monday Fight Night Special				Vietnam Revisited (2003 SEG Review)	IBC News Tonite	Linawin Natin	
JackTV	Street Smarts	Worst Case Scenario		Wwe Heat		WWE Velocity		Cheat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Kid Notorious	Comedy Central Presents	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX	MYX Firsts	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight Weekend		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2	
Cinema One		Pasang Krus				Sa Hirap At Ginhawa				Squala				Bukas May Pangarap				Eto Na Naman Ako	
Studio 23						Super Gals		Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model	Tru Calling		Charmed		News Central	The Next Joe Millionaire		Travel Time
AXN						Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	E Buzz	The Associates		Alias (Season III)		When Disasters Strike!		Fear Factor		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami	
Star World	Weird TV	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	The King Of Queens	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Frasier	Boston Public		Friends	The King Of Queens
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic		Pharaoh's Week		Animals Like Us		Be The Creature		Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell	Wow		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Built For The Kill		Animals Like Us	
Solar Sports		Philippine-Qatar Goodwill Games			FIVB Montreux '05 Volley Masters				NBA Jam Local	Sagupaan		Fight	Sports Desk	NBA Greatest Game		Bayer Advantage Classic Final Round		Vintage NBA	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! True Hollywood Story		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Brini Maxwell Show	Modern Girl's Guide	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
HBO			Stripes				Virginia's Run (5.20 PM)			Twister (7.10 PM)				Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind			Quicksand (10.45PM)		
Star Movies				Visitors (4.05 PM)			Shooting Stars (5.40 PM)				Sleeping With The Enemy			She's The One			Brown Sugar (10.40PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Static Shock	What's New Scooby Doo?	Atomic Betty	Zoids Fusion	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	What's New Scooby Doo?	Atomic Betty
ESPN							Streetball: The 2004 and 1 Mix tape tour					Sportscenter Asia	U.S. Open Golf C'ship Pinehurst, NC USA Final						
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean. The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unlabative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	The Archies In Jug Man			So Little Time	Sabrina The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Jumping Ship	
Cinemax	Hood Rat			Cover Girl			The Underneath (5.45 PM)				Hercules And The Amazon Women			Fierce Creatures			Lightning Bolts Of Destruction (10.35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Wife Swap					Just Cause (10.35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye
Discovery Channel		Body Work		Mummy Autopsy		Mythbusters		Lost Worlds		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Extreme Machines		Real Flying Saucers	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		TRL		Ask Rob Thomas	MTV Dives		D-tour	Taildaters	Punk'D	Rich Girls	On Board at MTV	Brand New	VH1 Video Collection	
Sports Plus				Memorial Tournament Highlights		Get A Grip On Golf	Golf Globe '03	Raceworld		This Is The PGA Tour		French Open '05 Finals				Bayer Advantage Classic Final Round			

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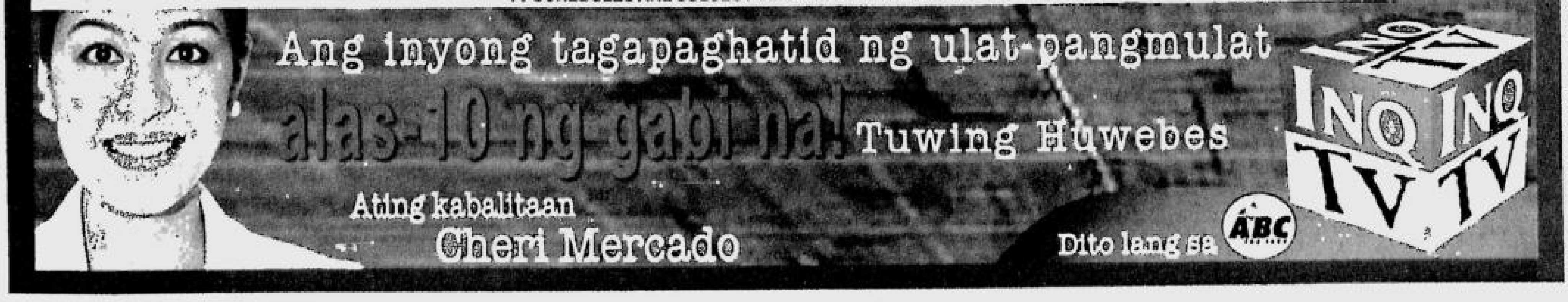
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GALLERIA

632-9115/16

1 BATMAN BEGINS • THX
12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

2 BATMAN BEGINS
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

3 STAR WARS Episode III
12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40

4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

5 NASAAN KA MAN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 BATMAN BEGINS
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

7 SIN CITY
1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50

8 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 MADAGASCAR
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

10 SHUTTER
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

1 BATMAN BEGINS
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

2 PREMONITION
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 SIN CITY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 9:50

4 NASAAN KA MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 SHUTTER
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 BATMAN BEGINS
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

7 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST

682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SHUTTER
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 BATMAN BEGINS
4:30 7:40 10:00

3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:05 2:20 4:30 7:40 10:00

4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
12:00 2:25 4:45 7:15 9:30

5 COACH CARTER
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

6 BATMAN BEGINS
3:50 7:00 10:00

7 BATMAN BEGINS
12:40 3:50 7:00 10:00

8 NASAAN KA MAN
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

CITISQUARE MALABON

288-2575

1 NASAAN KA MAN
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 BATMAN BEGINS

PIONEER

687-5378

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH

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"Christopher Nolan's *Batman Begins* explores the Batman legend and the Dark Knight's emergence as a force for good in Gotham. In the wake of his parent's murder, disillusioned industrial heir Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) travels the world seeking the means to fight injustice and turn fear against those who prey on the fearful.

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1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH

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(043) 312-5870

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH

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(046) 416-4332

1 NASAAN KA MAN
2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 BATMAN BEGINS

ANGELES

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1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
4 BATMAN BEGINS

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(046) 471-8188

1 NASAAN KA MAN
2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
3 SHUTTER
4 BATMAN BEGINS

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(045) 961-6270

1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
5 BATMAN BEGINS
6 BATMAN BEGINS

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(034) 441-0469

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
5 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
6 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE

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2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 SHUTTER
4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH

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AYALA

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THX

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 NASAAN KA MAN	2 MR. & MRS. SMITH	3 BATMAN BEGINS	4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 BATMAN BEGINS	2 BATMAN BEGINS	3 THX BATMAN BEGINS 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 NASAAN KA MAN	5 MR. & MRS. SMITH	6 BATMAN BEGINS	7 MR. & MRS. SMITH
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 NASAAN KA MAN 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20	2 BATMAN BEGINS 12:10, 3:10, 6:10, 9:10		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX BATMAN BEGINS 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX BATMAN BEGINS 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 NASAAN KA MAN 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MR. & MRS. SMITH 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BATMAN BEGINS 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX BATMAN BEGINS	2 NASAAN KA MAN		
	3 MR. & MRS. SMITH	4 BATMAN BEGINS	5 BATMAN BEGINS	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 BATMAN BEGINS	2 NASAAN KA MAN	3 MRS. & MRS. SMITH	4 SHUTTER

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⑥ Mr. & Mrs. Smith
⑦ Batman begins

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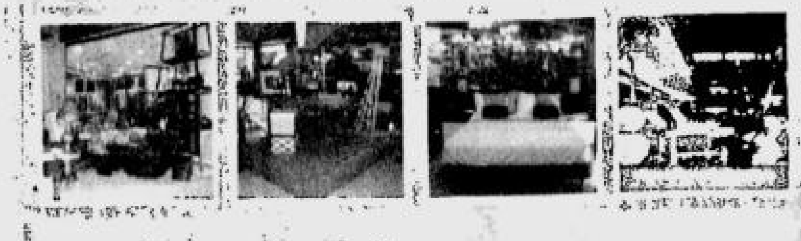

The Home Finds of Angel Jacob, Christine Bersola-Babao, Ces Drilon and Rico Blanco

With the special participation of Ana Rocha-Castillo

June 15-July 15, 2005
Home Market, 3rd Level

So nails 2 golds; De Ramos, Garcia up

FIDE Master Wesley So topped both the standard and blitz competitions of the boys' under-12 bracket to capture two gold medals in the recently concluded 6th Asean Age-Group Chess Championship in Pattaya, Thailand.

The youngest ever Filipino chess master, So duplicated his two victories in the fifth edition of the meet. He had an impressive 8.0 points from nine games in both events in Pattaya.

So's teammates, Julius Joseph de Ramos and Jan Emmanuel Garcia, also contributed a gold each to the Philippine medal haul by ruling the blitz event in their respective divisions.

De Ramos scored 12.0 points in 14 outings to bag the boys' under-18 crown while Garcia tallied 8.5 points in nine rounds to grab the boys' under-10 title.

Garcia also nailed a silver medal in standard play after sharing second spot with Singapore's Jordan Yap Yongdi and Vietnam's Vuong Trung Hieu at 6.5, half a point behind winner Daniel Howard Fernandez of Singapore.

De Ramos bucked a slow start to salvage a bronze in the standard event. He finished with 6.0 points, just half a point off winners CM Pham Duc Thang and Fide Master Nguyen Huynh, both of Vietnam.

Sun Star 9-Ball tilt gets going

CEBU CITY—Antonio Gabica, Dennis Orcullo, Ronnie Alcano and Lee Van Corteza were named as the four seeded players in the 4th Sun Star Super Balita 9-Ball Challenge which fires off today at the SM City Trade Hall.

CORTEZA

The most prestigious billiards tournament in Southern Philippines features the best players from all over the country against the region's finest.

"This is the strongest field ever," said Gabica, winner of the 2004 Fil-9 Open and a veteran internationalist, in Filipino. "Action will be tight because the Cebuanos will be trying hard to score in their own turf."

Gabica and Orcullo are the 2002 and 2003 Sun Star Super Balita champions while Corteza was last year's runner-up to Elmer Haya, who is now campaigning in the United Arab Emirates.

Alcano, touted as the new golden boy of Philippine billiards, won the Manila leg of the 2005 San Miguel Asian Tour earlier this month.

The main draw includes Cebu's Warren Kiamco and Leonardo Andam, Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Victor Arpilleda and promising youngsters Richard "Golden Boy" Aguilar, Jharome Peña and "Jeff Bata" de Luna.

Aguilar, Peña and De Luna are regular campaigners in the TM Philippine 9-Ball Champions League and are touted as the next stars of the local billiards scene.

They will be competing for 12 slots to complete the Round of 16 cast with the four seeded players on June 21.

The semifinals will be on June 22 and the finals on June 23.

Rocketman Enterprises, headed by Ramon Tuason, will telecast the Sun Star Super Balita championships "Hagit Cebu" on IBC as follows: Primer on June 20, Monday (10-10:30 p.m.); Eliminations on June 21, Tuesday (9-10:30 p.m.); Round of 16, June 23, Thursday (9-10:30 p.m.); Quarterfinals, June 24, Friday (9-10:30 p.m.); Semifinals on Sunday, June 26 (9-10 p.m.) and Monday, June 27 (9-10:30 p.m.); Finals on Tuesday, June 28 (9-10:30 p.m.).

Roligon derby stakes P3M

A GUARANTEED cash pot of P3 million—almost equivalent to the total prize money given out in 2005 World Slasher Cup recently—will be at stake in the Hatawan Sa Tag-ulan 6-Cock Derby slated July 4, 6, 8, 11 and 13 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Cockpit owner and host Rolly Ligon said they have pegged the entry fee at only P8,800 to give small-time cockers and breeders a chance to hit the jackpot in the five-day cockfest. A five-door Pajero (turbo diesel automatic), now on display at the cockpit lobby, will go to the fastest win champion. Little-known cocker Jeric Junio of Bulacan won a Pajero last February in the Roligon Anniversary derby after posting a winning time of 11 seconds. Meanwhile, the Cash Premyo 3-Cock Derby kicks off tomorrow at the same venue with a guaranteed prize of P200,000. For cockhouse reservations, call 8332275, 8331638 and 8529812.

Four-cocker kicks off at Makati venue

THE COUNTRY'S finest cockers and breeders collide anew today in another 4-cock derby at the Makati Coliseum, Metro Manila's newest venue for cockfighting. More than 70 fights are lined up today in the event hosted by the FTE Happy Gamefarm Group and held in cooperation with promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of Winning Time Jobo Sports and Gaming Corp. The long list of participants include Patrick Antonio, Tony Lasala, William Go, ASF Farms, Capt. Emil Chua, Magdangal Elma, Benjie Lim, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Tanggol Eusebio and the Batangas Group. For inquiries, call 8963545 or 8956475. The Makati Coliseum is located at 31 Mascardo Street, Barangay Singkamas, Makati City.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① BATMAN BEGINS
MTRCB GP
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

② MR.& MRS.SMITH
MTRCB PG-13
11:10, 1:50, 4 30, 7:10, 9 50

③ NASAAN KA MAN
MTRCB R-13 P120.00
12:20,2:40,5:00,7:20,10.00

④ MADAGASCAR
MTRCB GP
1:40, 3:45, 5 50,7:55,10:00

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MTRCB GP 12 00, 3 00, 6 00, 9 00
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1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
12:20, 3:00, 5:40
8:20, 10:55
PG-13

2 BATMAN BEGINS
10:50, 1:55, 5:00
8:05, 11:10
GP

3 BATMAN BEGINS
10:20, 1:25, 4:30
7:35, 10:40
GP

4 NASAAN KA MAN
10:35, 1:05, 3:35
6:05, 8:35, 11:05
R-13

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BATMAN BEGINS GP 1:25,4:10,6:55,9:40	MR. AND MRS. SMITH PG13 11:40,2:20	BATMAN BEGINS GP 12:30,3:15,6:00,8:45
MR. & MRS SMITH PG13 1:40,4:20,7:40,10:20	NASAAN KA MAN R13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	BATMAN BEGINS GP 11:35,2:20,5:05,7:50,10:35

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Nasaan Ka Man
4 Batman Begins
5 Mr & Mrs Smith
P75 Lang Dolby Digital Pa Experience @ Starmall Edsa 4 & 5 Metropolis 5

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
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2 Mr & Mrs Smith
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11:15FS/11:40MF/02:00/04:20/08:40 08:40LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END

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1 STARWARS: EPISODE III
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2 BATMAN BEGINS
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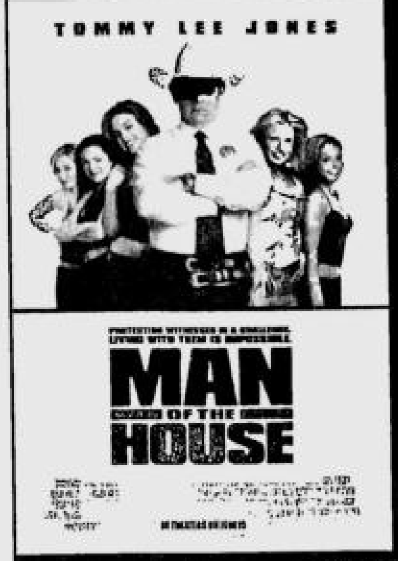

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7 SHUTTER
8 NASAAN KA MAN
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 BATMAN BEGINS
11 PREMONITION
12 MADAGASCAR

sm city fairview
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2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 PREMONITION
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 SHUTTER
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 STARWARS: EPISODE III
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 A LOT LIKE LOVE
11 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
12 MADAGASCAR

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2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 PREMONITION
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 POOH'S HEFFALUMP
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 MR. & MRS. SMITH

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2 PREMONITION
3 MAN OF THE HOUSE
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 A LOT LIKE LOVE
6 BATMAN BEGINS
7 HOUSE OF WAX
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9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
11 SHUTTER
12 NASAAN KA MAN

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2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 BATMAN BEGINS
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5 BATMAN BEGINS
6 SIN CITY
7 A LOT LIKE LOVE
8 ARE WE THERE YET?
9 STARWARS: EPISODE III
10 MADAGASCAR

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3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
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5 ANG LAGUSAN
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2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 BATMAN BEGINS

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SPORTS

Comebacking Drueco still a force with 3rd-place finish

DRUECO

COMEBACKING Arvin Drueco reasserted his claim to being one of the country's top karters with his impressive third-place finish in the 2005 Asian Karting Open Championship at the Carmona Circuit Philippines recently.

The 19-year-old mechanical engineering student at Mapua clocked 18:14.648 to finish behind champion Matteo Guidicelli and runner-up Indy Villalon in the premier ICA Open class.

"We didn't expect to land on the podium," said Drueco, who is back in active racing after a two-year hiatus. "We had no practice, no good tires. We just wanted to support the event.

"It's really surprising that you could do what you have to do for the national flag."

Drueco was a consistent sixth or last in the seven-man ICA field during the time trials Saturday and in Sunday morning's pre-final race.

But while everybody thought Michele Bumgarner was headed for a sweep of the races, Asia's "Karting Queen" made a tactical error on the once-wet track, allowing Indonesian Ryan Anthony Monoarfa to zip by her and give pole-sitter Guidicelli and Villalon a tough contest.

Drueco then pushed his kart to the limit and succeeded in passing Monoarfa.

A loose chain guard in the sixth lap forced Drueco to make a pit stop where mechanics repaired it. Re-entering the fray, he quickly caught up with Bumgarner and Monoarfa and stayed in third place the rest of the way.

Sound Offer pulls through in 3rd leg

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

STAR jockey Fernando Raquel Jr. knew that Sound Offer was ready to score a victory after her runner-up finish to Empire King two weeks ago.

"*Tingin ko hinog nang manalo* (I think she's ripe for a win)," said Raquel, noting the condition of the 5-year-old imported mare from Australia had turned for the better following that loss.

True enough, Sound Offer lived up to expectations when she routed her rivals in the third leg of the 2005 Imported Stakes series yesterday at Santa Ana Park.

Raquel simply drove the top choice well within the fast-stepping Heroics in the early going before asking his mount for the juice at the far turn.

The daughter of former Kentucky Derby winner Thunder Gulch out of What An Offer had no trouble passing the tiring Heroics but had some anxious moments when Wild Orchid dangerously loomed on the outside.

Sound Offer easily quashed Wild Orchid's challenge, however, and found herself enjoying a four-length cushion by the time she rounded the final bend.

Although the win appeared in the bag from that point, Raquel never wavered, flogging his mount left-handed as Sound Offer finished the 1,600-meter event with a six-length margin.

"*Ginamitan ko pa ng latigo para paniguro* (I had to use the whip just to be sure)," added Raquel, who rode the winner for the second time.

Sound Offer, beaten by Empire King in the Binay Cup last June 5, picked up P270,000 for her eighth win in 18 starts. It also avenged her loss to Wild Orchid in the Class Division last May 28 while under the guidance of Louie Balboa.

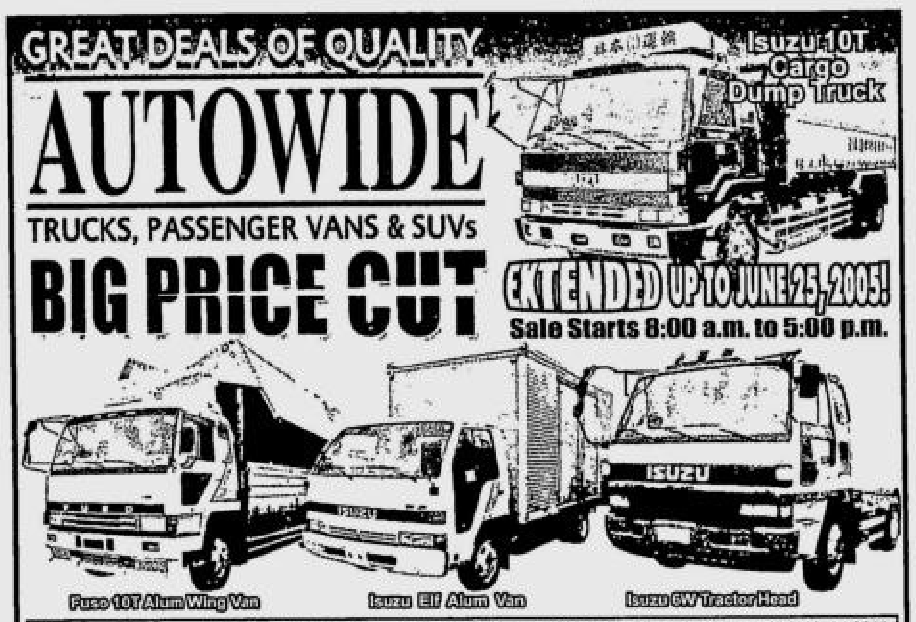
Glamour, with Val Dilema aboard, rallied from the tail of the field to edge the Jordan Cordova-handled Wild Orchid by half a length and snare the P101,250 runner-up prize. Heroics, piloted by Antonio Alcasid Jr., drifted back to fourth, while the Jesse Guce-steered Last Snip arrived fifth and last.

Sent off with the top sales of P405,819 out of P1,027,252, Sound Offer clocked a respectable P1:40.6, clicking fractions of 24.4-24.5-24-27.

Sir Golden Score and Stowaway Lass topped the first two legs, respectively, of the series which Sixiest ruled last year.

2-man RP boxing team in Asian tilt

A LEAN two-man Philippine boxing team left for Pakistan Saturday to participate in the 15-nation Asian Junior boxing championships starting today. With coach Elmer Pamisa at the helm, light flyweight Jay-ar Quiam and lightweight Anthony Marcial will slug it out against the best boxers from the region aged 19 years and below.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ENTERTAINMENT

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BIANCA KING

Why Bianca King left GMA 7

'Somebody wanted me out, for business reasons'

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS and commercial model Bianca King said she would have been one of Richard Gutierrez's leading ladies in GMA 7's latest action-adventure series, "Sugo," but that she was "pulled out for business reasons."

Bianca refused to tell INQUIRER Entertainment what the reasons were. But she pointed out, "[It] had absolutely nothing to do with me. It's not true that I failed the [acting] workshop," she said in a gathering at the Shangri-la Mall in Mandaluyong on Friday.

"There was trouble between GMA 7 and some people. *Nadamay ako*. I didn't have a talent contract with GMA 7 at the time, *kaya ako ang natanggal* (I was the casualty)," said Bianca.

She recently appeared on ABS-CBN's talk show, "The Buzz," and announced that she had been dropped from the project. She has since left GMA 7 and transferred to the rival network.

Richard's former screen partner Chynna Hortaleza replaced Bianca.

"The 'Sugo' staff members told me the real reason," Bianca revealed. "I'm very close to them. I was in touch with them all the while they were writing 'Sugo.' I already knew that I was going to be in the cast, and what my role would be. They said it broke their hearts to tell me that somebody wanted me

WHY A2-3

'SOP' to launch Pinoy TV in US

BROADCASTING giant GMA 7 is set to bring the cast members of its Sunday variety show "SOP" next month to the United States by way of launching Pinoy TV, its international channel.

The show will air live at The Forum in Los Angeles on July 16, and at The Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco on July 23. The Forum is the former home of the Los Angeles Lakers.

The cast will be led by Regine Velasquez, Jaya, Janno Gibbs and Ogie Alcasid.

"This project is really getting me excited," GMA 7 senior vice president for TV entertainment Wilma Galvante told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "[Pinoy TV] will feature not only old shows, but also current programs."

GMA Pinoy TV is seen in Guam and Japan at present, added Galvante.

The Forum seats up to 20,000. The 7,000-capacity SF venue is equipped with state-of-the-art theatrical lighting and concert sound system.

"The Forum is equivalent to five Araneta Coliseums," Galvante pointed out. "that should be fun."

Other performers for the launch are Jay-R, Dingdong Dantes, Karylle, Malik, KC Montero and Gabby Eigenmann, as well as young stars from "SOP Gigsters" like Richard and Raymond Gutierrez, Chynna Ortaleza,

'SOP'/ A2-4

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Post-M2M Raven in Manila tomorrow

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

TAKE FIVE

MARION Raven is a 21-year-old Norwegian based in New York City, pursuing a full-time music career.

For the unfamiliar, Raven was last seen at the 2002 MTV Asia Awards as the other half of the female pop duo M2M. She has since parted ways with her singing partner Marit Larsen, and is currently on an Asian club tour to promote her debut solo album titled "Here I Am." One of the CD tracks, "End of Me," is the first radio single and showcases a woman's expression of emotional torment from a failed romance.

Raven is arriving in Manila tomorrow as part of the promo tour. While in Taiwan recently, she spoke to INQUIRER Entertainment by phone.

What caused the breakup of M2M?

I wanted to pursue my own music and experience growth as a musician. The breakup was very cordial. Marit and I are still good friends.

Your solo album is rock-oriented and different from the stuff you did with M2M. What do you like about rock music?

I love how it makes you feel. It touches you. It's real. And there are so many possibilities in songwriting.

How relevant are the songs you're doing now to the audience that you want to reach?

They can easily identify with the emotions here. There's anger from the hurt I personally felt from broken relationships.

What does your own music mean to you?

Everything. It's my passion in life. I would be a completely different person without it.

What can it do for the world?

I would like to help others by using my resources to alleviate the suffering of people.

What's it like living in New York?

It's tough but exciting. There's so much happening, I can hardly sleep at night. I live by myself and spend days practicing the guitar in my small apartment downtown. I just bought this red Gibson SG and it sounds amazing.

Name some of your past and present influences.

Lately I've been listening to the Doors and they sound great. I also like Led Zeppelin and Nirvana.

Name five of the greatest songs ever written.

"Wild World" by Cat Stevens, "River" by Joni Mitchell, "Cocoon" by Jack Johnson, "You Oughta Know" by Alanis Morrisette and "Cry Baby" by Janis Joplin.

(Raven will perform with Kitchie Nadal at Music Museum, 9 p.m. on June 25, guest on "ASAP Fanatic" June 26 and later that same day, do an acoustic at Music One, Greenbelt 3.)

MARION Raven goes rock

SHOW TIME

S Border hurdles 12 years

SOUTH Border celebrates its 12th anniversary with a concert titled "South Border Independent" at the Araneta Coliseum on Friday, June 24.

The popular R&B group, formerly led by Brix Ferraris, and then Luke Mijares, on lead vocals, now has Vince Alcaraz and Duncan Ramos as front men.

The two new guys provide a fresh perspective to the band which has, in fact, come up with currents hits—the biggest of which is "Rainbow."

The members who have stuck it out are Jay Durias, Paul Benitez, Tata Balane, Butch Victoriano and Ric Junasa.

Friday's guests are Jinky Vidal of Freestyle, Juris Fernandez of MYMP and Nikki Gil. Tickets are at P150, P250, P350, P500 and P600. Call Maximedia, tel. 551-7777.

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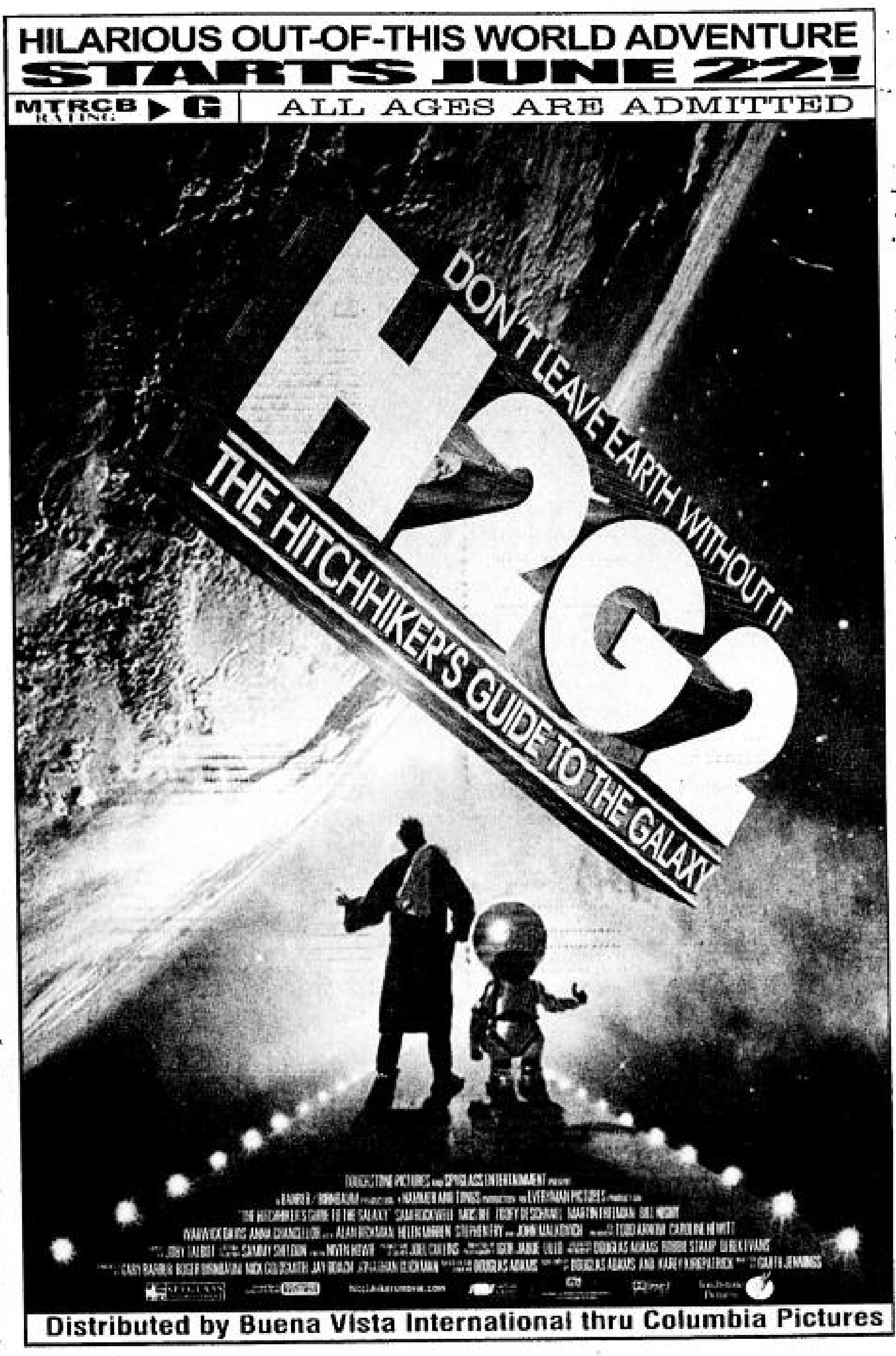
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Stars wage war on paparazzi

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Show biz celebrities unite to win back privacy

FOR MANY years now, "ambush" photographers and videographers, better known as paparazzi, have been irritating show biz stars by taking shots of them during their most unguarded, private moments.

They do this because magazines and newspapers want photos that show stars as people, and focus on controversial actuations, furtive flings, drunken or drugged behavior, etc.

Why is there a voracious market for this? Because some show biz fans want to see beyond controlled and sanitized studio publicity, and others get a kick out of finding proof that otherwise pluperfect celebrities have feet of clay.

What's so great about that? Well, what about: misery loves company? Some fans get a perverse surge out of seeing stars behaving as cruddily as everybody else—or worse!

In any case, the perverse interest is there, so the paparazzi do their best—and worst—to feed it. That's why some of them stalk stars doing absolutely humdrum things, like going to the supermarket, in the hope that they will do something "interesting."

When that doesn't happen, some photographers aren't loath to goading the stars to get them all riled up and surly, maybe even physically pugnacious. They then sell the nasty photos to media outlets for hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

Others even resort to crashing exclusive show biz events, or hiring helicopters to sneak past security and getting exclusive shots of stars in intimate situations that they would naturally want to keep private.

Why do the paparazzi feel no compunction about invading stars' private lives in this way? Because they believe that stars are "public property," and that the loss of their privacy is one of the prices they have to pay for the many perks of stardom.

Of course, some stars disagree with this perception, and believe that "the only thing stars owe to their audience is a good performance." Tell that to the paparazzi, though...

Well, stars' problems with "ambush" photographers have gotten so bad that some of them have decided to fight back and assert their right to privacy.

They point out that some stars have gotten injured during their run-ins with the "shooters," who treat them like animal prey on hunting expeditions, so it's time to "shoot the shooters."

They've gotten the attention and cooperation of the Los Angeles Police Department, which has put up a special task force to protect celebrities in Hollywood against unwanted and unwarranted vexation from paparazzi.

Some stars even want to meet with California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on the issue. Being a celebrity himself, the "Governator" would most likely find just cause in their complaint.

So, the word's out to all those intrusive photographers who love sticking their noses and their camera lenses into stars' private lives: your wild and woolly days may be numbered, so it's time to treat stars as people, not meal tickets, and to grant them the private space that they're entitled to when they aren't working.

'Gabi ng Parangal'

THE CELEBRATION of the 434th Araw ng Maynila tomorrow will be highlighted at 6 p.m. by a Gabi ng Parangal for this year's recipients of the City of Manila's Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan Awards, which will be handed out by Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr. at the Manila City Hall's Bulwagang Antonio Villegas.

'The Island'

MICHAEL Bay's new film, "The Island," is about two escapees (played by **Ewan McGregor** and **Scarlett Johansson**) from a colony of clones 20 years into the future.

The clones, who believe they're the survivors of an apocalyptic event, get to an island and think that it's their dream destination. In fact, it's a hoax, and going to the island means that your owner is harvesting your body parts. That's why he's paid to have himself cloned.

When the film's protagonists learn about this, they escape—amd the chase is on.

'Billie's Bones'

JANIS Ian's 18th studio album, "Billie's Bones," has 13 folk, country and blues tracks: "My Tennessee Hills" pairs Ian's alto with **Dolly Parton's** soprano. "Matthew" imagines the 1998 hate-crime murder of **Matthew Shepard**.

Why Bianca King left GMA 7

From page A21

out."

According to Bianca, "Sugo" executive producer Helen Rose Sese submitted a report to GMA 7 management upon learning of the pull-out.

Bianca earlier worked with Sese in the recently concluded hit series "Mulawin."

She said Sese's report was about her performance on "Mulawin" and the workshop for "Sugo."

"Ms Helen told me that she fought for me. That's why some stories that have been published don't make sense to me," Bianca insisted.

Rumors in show biz circles say that Bianca's manager, Arnold Vegafria, had disagreements with the network management. The talent manager reportedly disappointed GMA 7 many times before, so that the Kapuso network threatened to file a complaint case against him with the Professional Artists Managers Inc.

Bianca said she doubted this "because Jay-R, [one of Vegafria's talents], is still there."

R&B singer Jay-R, who has a talent contract with GMA 7, is in the cast of the teen program "Love to Love" and the Sunday variety show "SOP."

'Welcome' guesting

Bianca said she received a lot of negative feedback about her interview on "The Buzz," despite her efforts to be "very neutral."

The interview, she stressed, was meant to be her "welcome" appearance on ABS-CBN. "I didn't say anything against GMA 7 or ABS-CBN. My guesting on that show was with good intentions. I didn't say anything against GMA 7 *talaga*. And I never will."

She believes everything happened "so I could grow as an actress and as a host. I transferred because ABS-CBN presented to me a better career path. But if GMA 7 ever offers me work with the same staff and my contract with ABS-CBN is finished, I'll take it."

Bianca's first TV appearance as an ABS-CBN talent was on the gag show, "Yes Yes Show," last week.

Friday's gathering was to launch Bianca as an endorser of No Curfew, a brand of wristwatches—along with actors Dennis Trillo, Geoff Eigenmann, Cid Lucero, and singers Kyla and April.

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HOW TO HAVE A GREAT DAY (From left) Shaina Magdayao, Heart Evangelista and Amanda Griffin swear by their tresses: Nothing beats confidence. Bad-hair days are truly un-cool. The girls proved this point—just look at 'em—during a recent event to celebrate the third year of the Cream Silk Makeover Mission, as endorsers of the top-selling hair conditioner. This year, the Mission started June 18 in Cebu City. Next stop is Cagayan de Oro, June 25.

Cinemalaya wants money back from missing artist

By Nini Valera

AN ENTRY to the independent film festival, Cinemalaya 2005, was dropped from the list of 10 finalists in the Full Length Feature category for failing to comply with the production schedule.

Cinemalaya—a joint project of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Film Development Council of the Philippines and Philippine Multimedia Systems Inc.—is asking Francis Hechanova, who submitted the entry "Angela, The Bading Assasin—A Movie Musical," to return P200,000, representing the initial amount given each participant to commence work on the films.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement between the finalists and Cinemalaya organizers, each participant in said category was to receive P500,000 as seed money from PMSI, owned by Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco. The money was to be released in tranches, based on the production schedule that the finalists themselves submitted.

The second release of funds was in January, based on the progress of the filmmakers' work. Hechanova's output was found inadequate by the monitoring committee headed by movie producer Robbie Tan.

Tan and another committee member, Paul Morales, met with Hechanova on Jan. 7, to discuss the progress of his work. During that meeting, Tan and Morales suggested that Hechanova hire professional actors, simplify his script and get a co-director.

Question of control

In another meeting with director Laurice Guillen-Feleo, FDCP chair and CEO, and Tan on Jan. 15, Hechanova was advised anew to hire a professional actor for the lead role. Hechanova was convinced that his choice, Leo Pura, was the only one who could play the role.

Guillen-Feleo and Tan also reiterated that Hechanova should get a co-director.

Hechanova was not given the second installment of the seed money.

Details of the meetings were documented by Hechanova. INQUIRER Entertainment obtained a copy of this document.

In a letter dated Feb. 4, 2005 and addressed to Guillen-Feleo and Tan, Hechanova sought to clarify the extent of the monitoring committee's control over the "creative and administrative aspects of my entry."

He lamented: "I never thought [I would be required to] yield to the recommendations of the monitoring unit in order for me to avail of the financial grant duly awarded to the project."

Cinemalaya replied to Hechanova in a letter dated Feb. 21, 2005 and signed by Nestor O. Jardin, CCP president and festival director; Guillen-Feleo; and Manuel F. Abellada, PMSI president:

"The... Committee [had] no intention of interfering with your judgment along that line. The important point... we want to emphasize is your inability to comply with the administrative aspect of your work."

Cinemalaya thus terminated its MOA with the filmmaker.

A follow up letter dated May 12, 2005 to Hechanova outlined a compromise in which he assigns all proprietary rights to the screenplay and video footages taken of his movie to the organizing committee.

The committee invited Hechanova to a meeting, but he was not heard from again.

Hope for 'Angela'

Instead, he has posted a series of blogs (Internet diaries) detailing the events leading to the termination of his agreement with the COC. In his May 17 entry, Hechanova said he hoped his movie could still be finished eventually, in spite of some "power-tripping" people in the "dying" industry.

Calls by INQUIRER to Hechanova's phone numbers listed with the FDCP failed to elicit any response. Also, he has yet to reply to a PDI message posted on his website for "Angela."

Laurice Guillen: We need to fine-tune rules

IN A phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Laurice Guillen-Feleo noted that other Cinemalaya filmmakers similarly encountered "some problems," but that "they made an effort to comply with their own production schedules."

She confirmed that Francis Hechanova would have to return the P200,000 down payment. However, she said, "We need to reach some kind of agreement on how to go about this."

Asked how Hechanova's problem would affect the entire festival, Guillen was optimistic: "It won't affect Cinemalaya. The festival will continue as scheduled. After all, [Hechanova's] is just one out of 10 feature films and six short films."

The only result she could foresee was, "It would prompt the organizers to fine-tune the rules and criteria in choosing future finalists."

She explained: "I don't want to preempt anyone, but one possible consideration is that we shouldn't base the selection on the script alone. We should probably also look at the track record of the filmmaker."

After all, Guillen-Feleo said, being selected for Cinemalaya is not like winning the Lotto.

"It is a grant—and like other grants, there has to be a Memorandum of Agreement. We shouldn't just give P500,000 to a total stranger." *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

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1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
BATMAN BEGINS
11:40 / 12:20 / 1:00 / 2:30
3:10 / 3:50 / 5:20 / 6:00
6:40 / 8:10 / 8:50 / 9:30
NASAAN KA MAN
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
MR & MRS SMITH
1:00 / 1:40 / 3:40 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 7:00 / 9:00 / 9:40

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❷ BATMAN BEGINS 11:15 / 2:15 / 5:15 / 8:15
❸ MR & MRS SMITH 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00
❹ SIN CITY 12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10
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June 22, Wed. 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE
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SOUTH BORDER CONCERT - INDEPENDENT
June 24, Friday, 8pm
NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES - GAMES
June 25, Saturday, 1pm
June 26, Sun. 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE
4:15pm Red Bull vs San Miguel / 6:35pm Shell vs Talk N Text

CENTER EVENTS
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So Shoe Me: The Mother Of All Shoe Festivals extended until June 30 at the Upper Ground Floor of Ali Mall
Handyman Power Tools & Car Accessories Sale ongoing until June 30 at the Third Floor of Farmers Plaza
Speedo Sale with up to 50% off on selected items ongoing until September 15 at the Ground Floor of Gateway Mall

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

'SOP' to launch ...

From page A2-1

Jennylyn Mercado and Mark Herras.

There will be special guests as well: Joey de Leon, German Moreno, Richard Gomez and Mel Tiangco.

Galvante said she flew to Las Vegas two weeks ago to talk with former "SOP" co-host Lani Misalucha to join the launch shows. "We're working on her schedule," Galvante said. "She still had a contract with 'SOP.'"

Prior to the live airing of "SOP," the Kapuso network, in partnership with Starmedia Entertainment, will host "Fiesta GMA" in the venues.

Surprise

"Fiesta," to be hosted by Lucy Torres-Gomez, will feature surprise performers. The network will also set up booths for food and clothing retailers, car dealers and importers of Asian products.

"Last I heard, the rival network is scrambling to put up something in nearby venues there, too," said Galvante. "That makes it even more exciting—just like the Cebu experience."

Last month, the warring stations brought their noontime variety shows to Cebu on the same weekend.

GMA 7 dubbed its event "Kapuso Cebuano Weekend" and ABS-CBN called its own blitz "Daghang Salamat Cebu." *Marinel R. Cruz*

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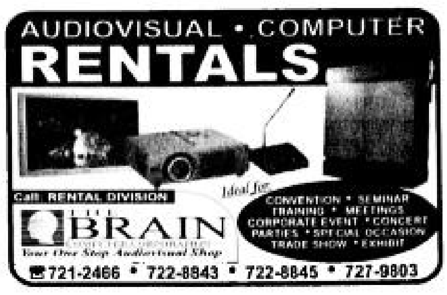
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Foreign investors still bullish on RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOREIGN investors are still optimistic on the Philippines' improving economic fundamentals despite some jitters caused by the ongoing political attacks targeting President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco noted that the peso, which closed at a fresh 5-month low of 55.475 on Friday, was still being weighed down by a cautious market.

"The stock market has recovered some lost ground over the last few days, but it will most likely look for a clarification of current issues before regaining the bullish trend seen earlier this year," he said.

But Tetangco noted that foreign portfolio investments or "hot money" flowing to the Philippines, driven mostly by equity investments, remained positive.

In the first week of June, he noted that there were still net inflows of $32.9 million, more than double that seen in the two previous weeks. The year-to-date net flows now amounted to $1.85 billion versus a measly $129.8 million in the same period last year.

The President has been accused of rigging the results of last year's elections to secure a fresh six-year term, while her husband, eldest son and brother-in-law were linked to illegal gambling payoffs.

"While all this has been happening, we have been meeting with investors abroad and the sense we get is that they are able to discern the fundamental changes taking place from what is simply political noise," said Luz Lorenzo, research head of stock brokerage ATR-Kim Eng Securities Inc.

The sequence of recent events, Lorenzo observed, was not something wholly new nor strong enough to lead to a change in government.

"One could almost say that there is something farcical about attempts to try to precipitate an impeachment along the lines of what happened to former President Joseph Estrada," she said in a commentary dated June 14.

UBS Securities Philippines Inc. analyst Tina Ibarra said in a June 15 report: "Despite political risk-related volatility in the financial markets, we believe structural fiscal reforms have a more lasting impact on Philippine fundamentals."

"We are revising our bank earnings to reflect an assumption of flat benchmark interest rates of 7.4 percent to 2007, as we believe improved economic fundamentals outweigh near-term political risks that could cause near-term volality in interest rates," the report said.

UBS originally forecast a rise in the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate from an average of 7.4 percent in 2004 to 9.5 percent in 2007.

"What foreign investors see is that positive steps have been taken to stabilize the government's finances and this is being taken favorably," Lorenzo said.

She noted that even while the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index

FOREIGN/ B3

TROPICAL trees complete a fair picture of the Fairways and Bluewaters property on Boracay island. New groups have joined the team that will finish this upscale property development on the resort island.

FAIRWAYS AND BLUEWATER

George Yang joins Boracay project

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE FIL-ESTATE Group has teamed up with businessman George Yang and MC Home Depot Inc. to complete the unfinished, upscale property development in Fairways and Bluewaters on the resort island of Boracay.

Yang, who owns Golden Arches Development Corp., the master franchiser of the McDonald's fast food chain in the country, said the group had put up MC New Coast Inc. for the Boracay project.

Together with the MC Home Depot group, Yang said he was also looking to develop the airport in Caticlan, the gateway to Boracay.

MC New Coast, a joint venture between Fil-Estate and MC Home Depot, will put up 10 luxury hotel and residential villas within the Fairways and Bluewaters estate.

Each building will have 30 units to be sold on a time-sharing scheme. The owners can stay in their units for

GEORGE/ B4

INDICATORS

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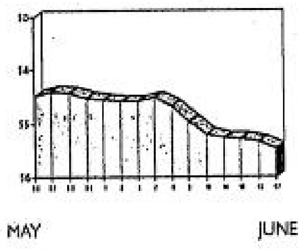
PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 55.475 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 17, 2005

¥ 109.16 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 17, 2005

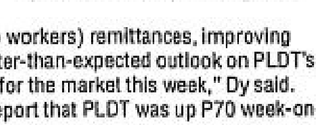
GOLD: $426.40-426.90
per ounce Hong Kong, June 15, 2005

June 19, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.825900	1.000000	55.2950
Japan	Yen	0.007583	0.009182	0.5077
United Kingdom	Pound	1.505203	1.822500	100.7751
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106226	0.128619	7.1120
Switzerland	Franc	0.649139	0.785978	43.4607
Canada	Dollar	0.668420	0.809323	44.7515
Singapore	Dollar	0.493193	0.597158	33.0199
Australia	Dollar	0.637909	0.772380	42.7088
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.190775	2.652590	146.6750
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220240	0.266667	14.7454
Brunei	Dollar	0.491724	0.595380	32.9215
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000104	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020178	0.024432	1.3510
UAE	Dirham	0.224875	0.272279	15.0557
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.210800	66.9512
Argentina	Peso	0.287520	0.348129	19.2498
Brazil	Real	0.342342	0.414508	22.9202
Denmark	Kroner	0.134349	0.162670	8.9948
India	Rupee	0.018973	0.022973	1.2703
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217371	0.263193	14.5533
Mexico	New Peso	0.076568	0.092708	5.1263
New Zealand	Dollar	0.590350	0.714796	39.5246
South Africa	Rand	0.123245	0.149225	8.2514
Korea	Won	0.000814	0.000986	0.0545
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026307	0.031852	1.7613

STOCK MARKET

Buoyant trading seen

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

EVEN with the wave of controversies hounding the Arroyo administration, market analysts expect stocks to remain buoyant this week.

Alfred Caird Dy, head of research at CLSA Phils. Inc., said investors continued to look at improving economic fundamentals rather than the current political noise.

"Rising OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittances, improving tourist arrivals coupled with a better-than-expected outlook on PLDT's earnings should provide impetus for the market this week," Dy said.

BPI Trade noted in its weekly report that PLDT was up P70 week-on-week after it said its second-quarter net earnings was likely to be stronger than the first quarter.

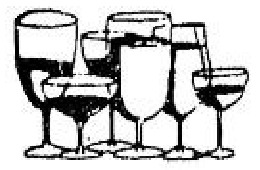
"Investors took this as a cue that the second-quarter performance will generally be positive," BPI Trade said.

For the week, the benchmark index surged 74 points or 3.82 percent.

President Arroyo had been accused of rigging last year's elections and

BUOYANT/ B4

WHAT'S INSIDE



RP economy: Most dynamic turnaround story in progress /B2
Bank's dagdag-bawas COCKTALES/B3
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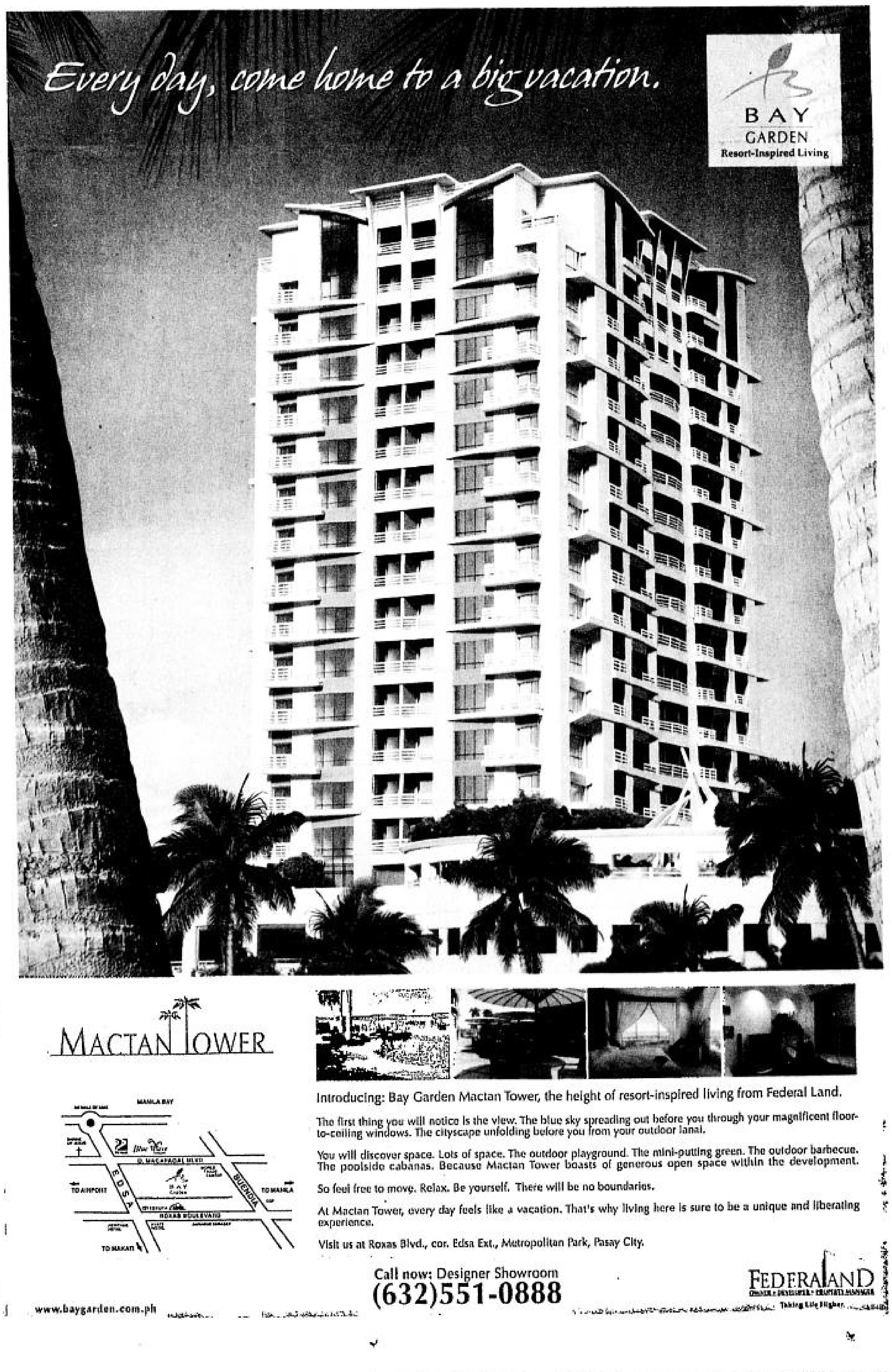
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RP economy: Most dynamic turnaround story in progress

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOREIGN analysts are still keeping the Philippines on their radar screens despite political scandals erupting against President Macapagal-Arroyo, Philippine Stock Exchange president Francis Lim said.

In a statement, Lim said separate assessments made by Fitch and UBS Securities Asia on the Philippines showed that investors have a positive outlook on the country's macroeconomic fundamentals despite controversies rocking the government.

In a research note recently released, Fitch reported the country's overall deficit and debt positions were expected to improve in the near term following the passage of key revenue measures.

The credit-rating agency sees the budget deficit dropping to 2.7 percent of total economic output next year in line with government targets.

In a separate investment research report, UBS Securities Asia named the Philippines as the most dynamic turnaround story in progress in the Asian region, along with Indonesia.

According to UBS, the enactment of the new value-added tax (VAT) bill has laid the groundwork for a turnaround in the country's fiscal dynamics.

UBS reported that over the next two years, public sector debt could actually fall by 9 percent of GDP, before stabilizing in the second half of the decade.

It cited reasons for the improvement such as higher tax revenues due to the new tax bills, lower losses by the state-owned National Power Corp. due to higher cost pass-through, and lower real interest rates and a stronger real exchange rate.

UBS also reported that the Philippines was undergoing a "virtuous circle." UBS said the peso has been outperforming most other Asian currencies and the Philippines was one of the only economies in Asia where short-term interest rates have fallen rather than risen.

Lim, for his part, said "the positive outlook on the country's macroeconomic fundamentals demonstrates that the Philippines as an investment site is sound and healthy."

Net earnings of listed companies on the PSE soared 51 percent to P36.75 billion in the first quarter of the year from P24.32 billion a year ago.

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Bright spots in agriculture

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

I HAVE become a great believer in local governments, even saying that they are the hope of this country amid the often glaring shortcomings of the national government. This conviction has been further reinforced in recent years, especially with the experience of judging local government awards like the League of Cities Best Practices Award and the Gawad Galing Pook. These gave me the chance to witness a wide array of truly wonderful initiatives undertaken by local governments, a great source of inspiration and hope especially at a time when so many of our people seem to have given up on our country and would rather bail out and ship out if they can. And one critical area wherein local governments have demonstrated that they can get things done and do them well if given the chance is in pushing the development of the farm sector.

Convergence thru BADC

A case in point is the Barangay Agricultural Development Center (BADC), a project that won Gov. George P. Arnaiz and the province of Negros Oriental the Gawad Galing Pook last year. Conceived in 1997, the program was a response to a long-felt need: upland dwellers dependent on the land had been wallowing in persistent poverty, with many being pushed into insurgency. Noting the wide array of largely uncoordinated services directed at the rural sector coming from different government agencies, the provincial government moved to orchestrate a convergence of resources and services, with the BADC as the venue. Through the BADC, community residents are also empowered to directly participate in analyzing the condition of their community, identifying problems besetting them, and planning and implementing solutions and projects to address them. The BADC likewise serves as a training center for agriculture and fishery development. Apart from teaching sound and sustainable farming practices like organic farming, integrated pest management, contour farming, and natural farming systems, the training they provide also focuses on values education, leadership, management skills and community participatory processes.

Quantitative and qualitative measures indicate that the program has done much good. Rice and corn production grew sevenfold and six-fold respectively within six years; substantial increases were similarly achieved in the production and yield of vegetables, legumes and root crops. The National Statistics Office (NSO) reported an increase in average annual income of farm households from P71,524 in 1997 to P90,459 in 2000, a 25-percent increase. Meanwhile, the Integrated Provincial Health Office reported substantial reduction (up to half) in malnutrition rates in participating areas.

Localizing AFMA

From a national perspective, the much-heralded Agricultural Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) passed by Congress in the mid-1990s is seen by most as having made little impact. But Mayor Randolph Ting of Tuguegarao City has shown how much can be achieved with a more focused local approach through the city government's program dubbed "Local AFMA," which was among the top five winners of the League of Cities Best Practices Award in 2003. In that year, the city devoted P11.6 million to the provision of a package of support to farms and fisheries that included construction of irrigation facilities and farm-to-market roads, establishment of a farm machinery rental pool, training and extension, rejuvenation of municipal fisheries, development of cooperatives, and fostering institutional linkages among farmers, NGOs, cooperatives, corporations, private investors, schools, LGUs and regional line agencies. Having sustained the program over the years from its inception in 1999, the resulting benefits are quite apparent.

Like Negros Oriental, Tuguegarao reports dramatic payoffs to their efforts in terms of significant increases in agricultural production and yields, and farm household incomes. Average per hectare rice yields rose from 4.5 metric tons (MT) before the program, to 5.5 MT now. The improvement in corn was even more spectacular, from 1.9 MT to 6.2 MT. Yield of high-value commercial crops doubled from 8 to 15 MT, while fish sufficiency rose dramatically from only 3 percent to 62 percent. Annual household income of almost 4,000 households reportedly shot up from P12,000 to P85,000.

Negros Oriental and Tuguegarao City are not isolated cases. Similar success stories abound in other LGUs around the country, including in Trinidad, Bohol; Bacarra, Ilocos Norte; Zamboangita, Negros Oriental; Magsaysay, Davao del Sur; Irosin, Sorsogon; and province-wide programs of Negros Occidental and Davao, to name only a few.

Partnerships

A common thread in these LGU success stories is active partnerships at the local level among various government entities, the private sector and civil society groups. Through close cooperation and coordination among the various stakeholders in agriculture development, greater efficiency and effectiveness is achieved, and budgetary resources go a much longer way.

All these suggest that making more dramatic headway in improving Philippine agriculture hinges not so much on the Department of Agriculture (DA) providing services and materials directly to our country's farms and farmers, but on how it can get local governments around the country to assume this role more actively. DA's more proper role is to set technical standards, provide technical guidance to LGUs, and monitor overall results--not to take matters into its own hands. The single most important reform the DA can do for Philippine agriculture is to step backward, while helping LGUs to step forward. DA must be the captain that will do the steering, but must rely on LGUs to do the rowing. This way, many believe Philippine agriculture will finally get somewhere.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Bank's dagdag-bawas

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

IT LOOKS like Equitable PCIBbank director Fulgencio Factoran Jr. is correct in complaining about the minutes of the bank's board and ex-com meetings being sanitized.

Despite his protestations that he is a faithful note-taker, this is how corporate secretary Nilo Divina recorded the controversial "Other Matters/Adjournment" sections of the highly charged May 23 executive committee meeting:

"The Executive Committee discussed in part the letter of vice chairperson Corazon S. dela Paz dated May 16, 2005, addressed to the members of the board of directors and agreed to refer the entire letter to the board of directors for appropriate disposition.

"Vice chairman Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, vice chairperson Corazon S. dela Paz and director Fulgencio S. Factoran Jr. moved and voted on the recommendation of vice chairperson Corazon S. dela Paz as set forth in the same letter.

"The chairman (Antonio Go), president Rene J. Buenaventura, and director Anthony F. Conway did not vote on the proposal and deemed it more appropriate to refer the matter to the board of directors, the addressee of the letter.

"There being no other matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 in the afternoon."

As Factoran had rightly complained, Divina did not reflect in his report that Go, Conway and Buenaventura walked out of the meeting after Factoran, Dela Paz, and Romualdez insisted on voting on Dela Paz's proposal for the Go family to stop the 11th hour disenfranchisement of nominees in next month's stockholders' meeting, as what had happened last year when the bank management disqualified one of the two nominees of the Government Service Insurance System.

With the GSIS loss, the Gos then moved on to name an allied director, thus assuring the family's "artificial" majority, said Factoran.

After the walkout, Romualdez, noting that there was still a quorum, continued with the meeting, which then approved the Dela Paz motion.

In a highly questionable move, Divina, as corporate secretary, overruled his superiors, vice chairs Romualdez and Dela Paz, claiming that the voting was not official and declared that he would not reflect the proceedings in the minutes.

Divina also happens to be the bank's corporate information officer.

Supernatural froth

THE REPACKAGED Mr & Ms magazine will concentrate on stories about "the Body, the Mind and the Spirit," and will veer away from the "froth and frippery" of gossip columns now dominating many lifestyle magazines.

Instead of a weekly, Mr & Ms will now come out as a monthly glossy, said publisher Eugenia Duran-Apostol, who has reacquired the magazine she herself founded 30 years ago.

The first issue is in fact chockfull of stories about ghosts, mediums, meditation, self-hypnosis, palm reading, feng shui, yoga, dwarves, "ghost busting", and "crystal hearing," led by photo and story spreads about the late Pope John Paul II and his successor, Pope Benedict XVI.

As a nod to its spiritual moorings, today's launch will, in fact, be held at the Santissimo Santo Antonio Parish Center in Forbes.

"We find it advisable to address our country's great needs for more spirituality," Apostol said of the magazine's focus.

The magazine's first cover has a half-naked Borgy Manotoc and a navel-exposed Bianca Gonzales in yoga poses.

Money-go-round

- LUY Kim Guan will reassume the chairmanship of Philippine Bank of Communications in tomorrow's shareholders' meeting. As of Saturday, the presidency of the bank was still a toss-up between Roman Azanza and Carmelo Bautista.
- NOW that the Tambunting family feud is over, Joselito Tambunting and his lawyer-wife, Victoria, are moving on to acquire an estimated P140 million worth of property in Forbes Park.
- THE PRESIDENT of Citystate Savings Bank, D. Alfred Cabangon, last week acquired an additional 20,000 shares, increasing his total shareholdings to 5.02 million shares. At Friday's closing, that block was worth more than P86 million.

Heard through the grapevine

THE HELICOPTERS of Francisco "Paqui" Ortigas III and others have been padlocked in the Asian Aerospace hangar, apparently a hostage to the continuing struggle between the hangar's landlord and bank creditors.

(E-mail: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

GRAPHIC
Conference

INTERNATIONAL BANKING AWARDEE
The 2005 Asian Banking Awards recently conferred the "Award for Outstanding Lifetime Service" to Plantersbank chair and CEO Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting (right) in recognition of his exceptional career in banking. The citation noted that Tambunting spent the greater part of his career in defining a market-driven, sustainable and profitable model of SME-oriented banking. Also in photo are (from left): Finance Undersecretary Roberto B. Tan and Asian Bankers Association Deputy Secretary RJ dela Cuesta.

World Bank arm to invest $150M in RP

By Clarissa S. Batino

INTERNATIONAL Finance Corp., the World Bank's investment arm, is expanding its Philippine portfolio by almost 50 percent to as much as $150 million between July 2005 and June 2006, the agency's country manager said.

The Philippines, according to the IFC, continued to have "good long-term prospects," particularly after the passage of the amendments to the value-added tax law.

Upcoming investments of $125-$150 million, according to IFC country manager Vipul Bhagat, was much higher than the $105 million during the fiscal year ending this June.

The fiscal year before that, IFC investments in the Philippines amounted to only $90 million.

Last Friday, the IFC and Filinvest Development Corp. signed a P2.25-billion loan agreement that would allow the property firm controlled by the Gotianun family to expand its mortgage financing. *(See related story on page B4.)*

Bhagat said that upcoming investments and lending would focus on the areas of infrastructure, mining, financial sector and small and medium enterprises.

He said investments in Maynilad Water Services Inc. might be included in next year's investment portfolio.

One or two mining projects were likely to be included in the list as well, according to Bhagat.

Foreign . . .

From page B1

had been falling, there was net foreign buying each day in the first week of June.

"The reforms introduced on the fiscal front, essentially tax increases, are painful ones and have cost President Arroyo severely in political points. This, in combination with the high world oil price, increases the country's misery index and makes her quite vulnerable to political adventurism," Lorenzo said.

"However, unless there is more definitive proof than what has been presented thus far of wrong-doing, it is very unlikely there will be a change in government," she said.

"Given these, the recent downturn should be seen as a buying opportunity. Investors should learn to screen out the political noise," she said.

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9.30am	12.00pm	Opening, Keynote address and AutoCAD 2006 launch
12.30pm	4.00pm	Manufacturing Solution breakout
12.30pm	3.00pm	Building Solution breakout
12.30pm	4.30pm	Infrastructure Solution breakout
12.30pm	3.30pm	Media & Entertainment Solution breakout
8.30am	5.30pm	Exhibition

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Filinvest turns to IFC for $40-M loan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Doris C. Dumlao

THE FILINVEST Land Inc. of the Gotianun family is turning to the World Bank's private sector arm, International Finance Corp., to secure a P2.25-billion ($40 million) loan for the financing needs of home buyers.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has also approved the new currency swap that would enable the Gotianun family to secure a loan from the IFC.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. said the loan needed the Monetary Bank's clearance because it would involve a currency swap with a foreign bank.

Tetangco said the net proceeds to FLI would be denominated in pesos, amounting to P2.25 billion.

In a disclosure late Friday, FLI said the proposed loan would go to mortgage financing of "underserved markets." It said the loan would also address the "critical housing shortage in the country."

The project that will be funded by the new loan will involve the construction of housing units to be offered between P700,000 and P4 million.

Filinvest Development Corp., FLI's parent firm, will guarantee the loan.

IFC country manager Vipul Bhagat expects a deal with FLI within the month.

We are bullish about the housing sector (in the Philippines)," Bhagat earlier said. "We think it will give people who cannot afford homes access to financing. This will cater to the middle income market."

Bhagat said that at present, banks cater to high-end borrowers. Its possible loan to FLI will give the firm the ability to provide mortgages for those in the middle income bracket.

The IFC said this will be in support of the government's thrust to provide people more affordable homes.

FLI for its part said this will also spur more housing development activities.

This year, FLI will launch new middle income projects in Cebu and Davao, a new phase in its Villa Montserrat project in Taytay, and a new middle income project in the South.

The IFC meanwhile is hiking its total loans to the Philippines to $105 million by the end of June to support infrastructure and financial sector projects.

The IFC's loan commitment has increased by 15 percent over the same period last year.

PCGG to act on complaint of Aussie firm

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has referred to the Presidential Commission on Good Government the complaint of an Australian firm over the ouster of its representatives to the board of directors of Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos said his department was not familiar with what had transpired at the boardroom of the telco firm and that the PCGG would be in a better position to address the matter.

Last May, the Australian government—on behalf of Australian Gigahertz Network International Pty. Ltd.—asked the DTI to investigate AGNI's claim that it was being maneuvered out of its controlling position in the Philippine telecommunications carrier and services firm.

"We are not brushing the matter off, but we don't know what exactly transpired, and it is an internal matter to them," Santos said. "We referred the matter to the PCGG for immediate and appropriate action."

Asked whether the incident had dampened Australian investors confidence in the country, Santos said: "All the (Australian) embassy said was that if this was not sorted out adequately, it might turn into a disincentive for Australian investors to do business here."

In a May 24 letter to Santos, Australian Ambassador to Manila Tony Hely said AGNI feared that the boardroom maneuvers of PCGG-appointed directors at ETPI might be a prelude to an unfair takeover.

The PCGG has two seats in the ETPI board since the company had been controlled by close associates of the Marcos administration.

AGNI's local unit has invested A$40 million in ETPI over the last five years, making it the largest shareholder with a 40-percent stake.

"While this is primarily a commercial matter, AGNI's claims, if correct, may raise concerns about the security of investors' interest in the Philippines and the impartiality of Philippine government appointees to act in the interest of good governance," Hely said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 17, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	1,928,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	52	51.5	52	1,138,800
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	1,440,000
Equitable PCI Bank, Inc.	51	51.5	51	51.5	528,100
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	39,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32	31	31.5	827,500
Prudential Bank	350	400	350	400	1,660
Philippine National Bank	42	42.5	41.5	41.5	480,100
Security Bank Corp.	27	27.5	27	27	45,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	5,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	232	262.5	232	262.5	60
Manulife Financial Corp.	2610	2625	2610	2625	1,880
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1760	1770	1760	1770	2,910
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	7,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	872,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2	2	2	2	17,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	820	835	820	825	79,040
Ipeople Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.6	3.7	58,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.047	0.049	4,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.15	3.25	994,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1600	1645	1600	1605	75,440
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.66	1,450,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	19,800,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	5,300
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	24	23.5	23.5	455,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	11,702,000
Petron Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.25	2,528,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2	93,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8	454,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	90,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Concrete Aggregates A	6	6	6	6	1,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.59	0.59	1,200,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	157,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	12,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31	31	31	439,400
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.12	1.12	58,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59.5	59.5	59	59.5	45,000
San Miguel Corp. B	91.5	92.5	91.5	92.5	101,500
Universal Robina Corp.	17	17.25	17	17.25	58,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	355	365	355	360	58,420
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.5	240,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5.1	4.9	5.1	856,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.031	23,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.02	66,000
APC Group Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	120,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	13,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.14	16,881,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	370,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.29	1,790,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.75	2,360,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	5,017,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.4	1,696,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49.5	49.5	49	49	275,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	400,000
Global Equities, Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	2,300,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	150,000
Ionics Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	2,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4	4.2	4	4.15	3,401,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.88	1.9	1.84	1.86	132,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.44	3,845,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.39	17,220,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	252.5	255	565,190
South China Resources Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	20,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	14,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,610,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.75	800,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	120,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.1	2,259,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.76	760,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.14	1,107,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	11.5	11.5	11	11	1,428,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	12,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	2,966,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	2,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.94	1,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.52	1.54	1.5	1.5	4,248,000
Highlands Prime, Inc.	2.22	2.28	2.18	2.28	80,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	55,000
SM Development Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8.1	8	8.1	9,570,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	149,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.8	716,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	40,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	16,690,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.38	20,890,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	213,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	192,300,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.96	1,060,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.08	6,972,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	31.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	331,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	440,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	54,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	56,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	6,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	155,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	3,320,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	780,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	7,930,610	282,976,645.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	148,678,490	632,475,180.00
PRO	20,441,000	110,501,500.00
Mining	601,589,300	46,764,920.00
OIL	120,255,000	2,018,560.00
SME	10,000	15,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	898,904,400	1,074,751,795.00

AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	583.97	UP 4.17
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,164.63	UP 19.61
PRO	756.16	UP 4.51
Mining	2,986.38	UP 121.57
OIL	2.64	UP 0.01
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,216.52	UP 6.83
Composite	2,011.17	UP 11.57

NO. OF ADVANCES: 43, NO. OF DECLINES: 22, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 111, NO. OF TRADES: 3,237

George Yang joins Boracay project

From page B1

four weeks a year. The rest of the time, the units will be rented out to guests.

Yang said he was making the investment as part of the MC Home Depot group.

The joint venture already broke ground for the first of the Balaihara New Coast Villatel. The first of the 270 brand new hotel and residential units will be available by April next year.

"The occupants of the property will have access to the facilities like the golf course and the beach cove," Yang said.

MC New Coast will own and market the buildings. Yang said they were coordinating with Fil-Estate's Noel "Toti" Cariño on the project.

MC Home Depot and Yang have likewise signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Transportation and Communication for the estimated P2-billion upgrade of the Caticlan airport.

Yang's group, however, will conduct a feasibility study to determine whether or not modernizing the Boracay airport to international standards is a viable investment opportunity.

Part of the group's plan is to extend the runway to accommodate larger airplanes and to put up a decent airport terminal.

Only small aircraft operated by Southeast Asian Airlines and Asian Spirit fly straight to Caticlan to bring tourists to and from Boracay. Bigger airplanes would have to fly to Kalibo, Aklan, more than an hour's drive to Caticlan.

From Caticlan, tourists have to take a 30-minute ferry boat ride to get to the island known for its powdery white sand and sparkling blue water.

Buoyant trading seen

From page B1

that her family benefited from jueteng, an illegal numbers game.

"Investors, however, focused more on the economic fundamentals. Investors bargain-hunted as the gross domestic product (GDP) performance for the second quarter is likely to be positive, which is expected to be higher than 5 percent and to be over by 5.5 percent in the second half of the year on improved output from the agriculture sector," BPI Trade noted.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,050,000	1,000,000
Alta Vista Corp.	-	230,000
Baguio Country Club	550,000	530,000
Calatagan Golf	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	180,000	-
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,400,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	Pls. Call	-
Club Filipino De Cebu	-	150,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	200,000/250,000*/Pls. Call**	Pls. Call
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	70,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	130,000/350,000*	-
Luisita Golf	300,000	-
Manila Golf Corporate	11,500,000	-
Manila Golf Individual	11,400,000	-
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	400,000/700,000*	370,000
Makati Sports Club	210,000	190,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	-
Mimosa C2/C3*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	220,000	180,000
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/220,000*	150,000/350,000**
Puerto Azul	60,000	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/230,000**	180,000*
Riviera Sports	45,000	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	280,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/C**	70,000/160,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,600,000*	1,100,000
The Palms Country Club	550,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	670,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	660,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pls. Call	-
Valley Golf	240,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	120,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,100,000

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	Please Call	1,000,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	550,000	520,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	70,000	-
Camp John Hay	200,000	170,000
Canlubang	550,000	470,000
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	100,000
Club Filipino	110,000	100,000
Eagleridge "A"	200,000	180,000
Eagleridge "B"	290,000	-
Eagleridge "C"	290,000	250,000
Forest Hills "A"	130,000	100,000
Forest Hills "B"	230,000	180,000
Forest Hills "C"	230,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	170,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	400,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	300,000
Metroclub "A"	130,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	-	130,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	250,000	180,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	300,000	180,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	150,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	370,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	130,000
Spa & Lodge	600,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,275,000	-
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	1,350,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	330,000
Tagaytay Highlands	730,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	620,000
The Palms Country Club	550,000	500,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	240,000	200,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	6,300,000

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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang Country Club	1.050M	-
Baguio Country Club	550K	-
Canlubang Golf Club	550K	-
Canyon Woods	125K	-
Capitol Hills "A"	100K	-
Celebrity Sports Club	120K	-
Club Filipino	100K	-
Eagleridge Golf Club "A"	190K	-
Eagleridge Golf Club "B"	290K	-
Eagleridge Golf Club "C"	280K	-
Eastridge Golf Club "A"	50K	-
Forest Hills (Individual)	100K	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	200K	180K
Manila Golf Club (Corp.)	-	please call
Manila Golf Club (Individual)	-	10.5M
Manila Polo Club	2.2M	2.150M
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	370K
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	600K
Orchard Golf Club "B"		280K
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350K	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	150K	-
Rockwell Club	200K	-
Spa & Lodge	500K	-
Sta. Elena Golf Club "A"	1.3M	
Sta. Elena Golf Club "B"		1.4M
The Country Club at TH	300K	-
Tagaytay Higlands	750K	
Tagaytay Midlands		600K
Tower Club (Ind.)	300K	-
Valle Verde Club (Ind.)	100K	
Valley Golf Club		230K
Wack Wack Golf Club	please call	-

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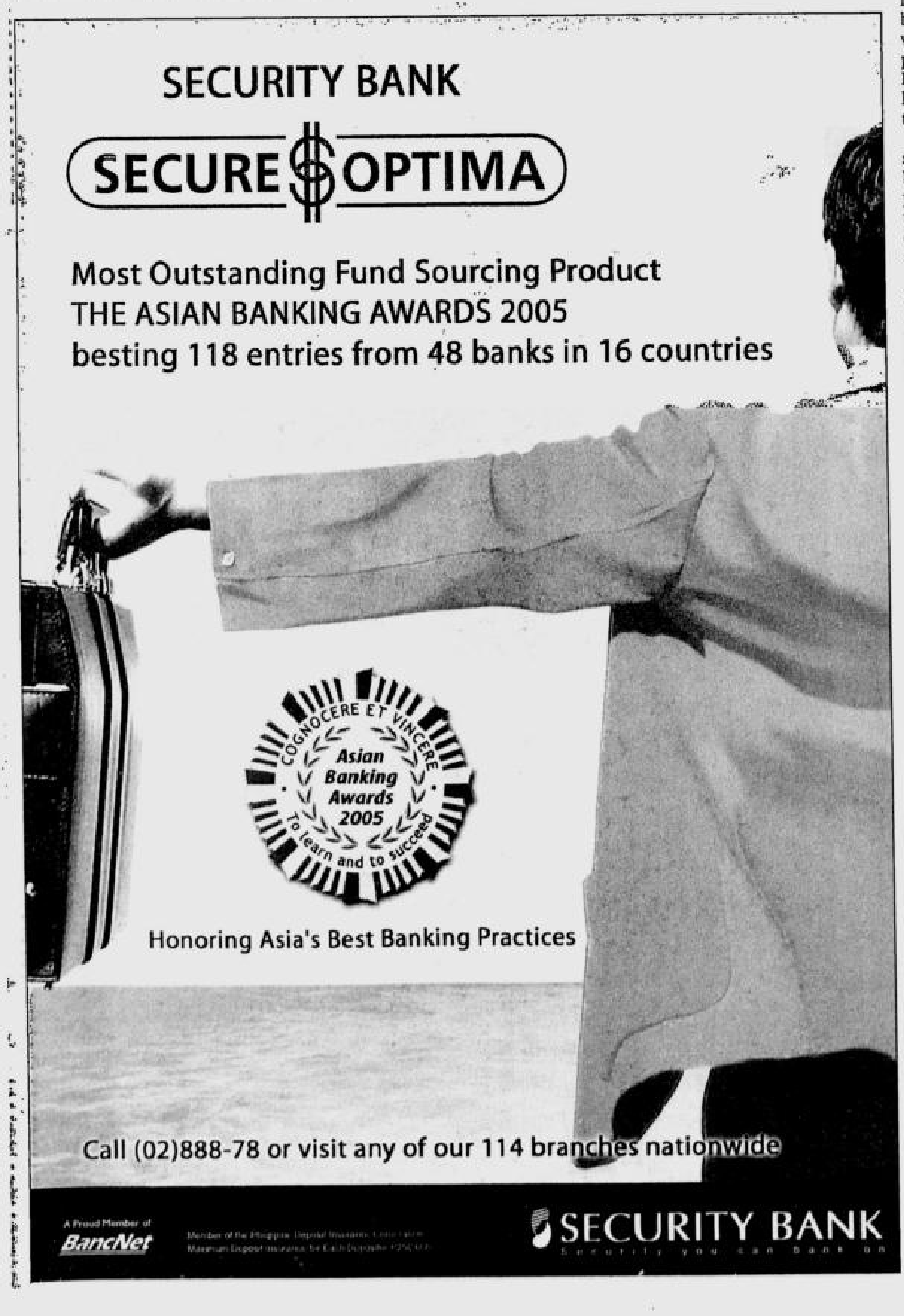
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Globe becomes RP's 2nd exchange carrier

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has made Globe Telecom Inc. the country's second local exchange carrier, despite strong opposition from 39 long-time, fixed-line operators.

In its June 17 decision, the NTC said Globe's wholly-owned Innove Communications Inc. was financially and technically capable of rolling out landlines nationwide.

The Globe unit is expanding its local exchange operations during a period of glut, while consumers remain focused on mobile phones. Of the 6 million installed landlines nationwide, less than 3 million are taken up.

In fact, Globe only has about 300,000 subscribers within its existing service areas.

Innove said its finances would suffer a loss in the first year after the expansion. But it said sales from the landline operations should grow robustly from P331 million to P1.5 billion when all the 145,000 lines have been installed.

Innove is the wireline voice and data services arm of Globe. This company absorbed Globelines, Globequest and another wireless brand, Touch Mobile, after the Ayala-controlled firm purchased Isla Communications Inc. from a group led by the Delgado family of the Visayas.

The Globe unit said it would spend P5 billion of internal funds to initially install 145,000 lines in places outside of its original service area.

Since Innove had remained in the red, it would likely run to Globe for financing. At present, Globe's profits have been slowing down.

Competitors believed that Innove's application would only make it harder for fixed-line operators to make money from the landline business.

Innove's acquisition of a national fixed-line permit would affect 1,276 operators nationwide. Of that total, 39 operators opposed the application of Globe's unit, including PLDT, Bayan Telecommunications Inc., and Philcom.

"The telco business requires a broader area," said Innove president Gil Genio in an earlier interview. "It is a misconception that there's no further growth for landline. On the contrary, we have to reallocate our resources to improve utilization."

He said Innove would use the fixed-line business to grow broadband operations and bring the benefits of the Internet to average households.

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RP, Japan confident of signing economic pact

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES and Japan remained confident of finalizing an economic partnership agreement by September, even as talks on critical issues such as automotive trade remain unresolved, Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos said.

Santos said in a briefing that Manila and Japan also have not agreed on the details concerning the movement of people between the two countries.

Asked to elaborate, the trade chief said: "We are keeping our position confidential since we have not agreed in principle on some items such as (those two topics)."

In a separate interview, an informed source said discussions on the automotive sector involved "the modality of tariff reduction" on completely built vehicles shipped from Japan.

"There are many (ways in which tariffs could be reduced and Malacañang) is looking at what the Japanese are offering other Southeast Asian countries," the source said.

"The Philippines prefers not to gradually reduce tariffs on completely built units," the source added.

The official said the country wanted the local automotive industry to be competitive, and that the Philippines should get no less than the concessions that Japan was willing to give other SEA countries.

Tariffs on CBU imports from most favored nations currently stand at 15 percent for trucks and buses, 20 percent for light commercial vehicles and 30 percent for passenger cars.

Last November, Manila and Tokyo announced they have agreed in principle on major elements of an EPA leading to the immediate removal of tariffs on certain fruits, vehicles, steel products, electronic appliances and garments.

The two governments said in a joint statement they would "expeditiously proceed with work to finalize the agreement, including negotiations on (its text)."

The Japan-Philippines EPA is meant to promote a freer flow of goods, persons, services and capital between the two countries.

Jovito Salonga speaks

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

JOVITO R. Salonga, venerable elder statesman, was the guest speaker in the 5th National Convention of the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) last May 27 at the Escaler Hall of the Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

At 84 going 85, Salonga spoke on "What Can We Do As Retirees?" Here are snatches of his thoroughly enjoyable inspirational talk.

"As we grow older, our hair becomes gray, the skin less elastic, our reflexes are slower, and the lens of the eye becomes foggy. But it is the time of great wisdom, our richest experience, and our deepest insights.

"Whatever we do, we will not live forever. The Fountain of Youth of Ponce de Leon is nothing more than a myth. There is no way we can reach 200 years or more. *Magpasalamat tayo sa Dios kung tayo'y makaabot sa siyam na pu o isang daan.* (Let's thank God, if we reach 90 or 100.)

"In China, says Lin Yutang, the 51st birthday is an occasion of great rejoicing; the 61st and the 71st are progressively happier and grander; a man able to celebrate his 81st birthday is one specially favored by the gods.

"But what frightens many people, as Rabbi Kushner puts it, is the dread of insignificance, the notion that we will be born, live, and one day, none of it will matter. A good many people don't want to live forever—it is like reading a good book or watching a good movie that never ended. Many people understand that the story of our lives must have a beginning, a middle, and an end. But what they desperately want is to live long enough to get it right, to feel that they have done something worthwhile with their lives."

"The senior who ages well makes use of the enormous advantage of age. Look at the many vigorous centenarians and seniors in public life. George Burns and Bob Hope in their 90s entertained millions of people. Grandma Moses was painting at 100. Bertrand Russell was active at 94. George Bernard Shaw was writing at 91. At 89, Albert Schweitzer headed a hospital in primitive Africa. When he was 96 and still playing his cello, Pablo Casals commented, 'Age is a relative matter. If you continue to work and absorb the beauty of the world around you, you find that age does not necessarily mean getting old.'

Human spirit

"The great philosopher tells us, 'Know thyself.' But there is a danger in too much self-analysis. At one extreme, we could spend a lot of time brooding over our aches and pains, boring others with sad stories of our ailments and illnesses. At the other extreme, we could be doing nothing else but congratulating ourselves on our accomplishments. Self-adulation could be even more boring. For he who falls in love with himself will have no rivals, as Benjamin Franklin used to remind his contemporaries.

As stated by Dr. James F. Fries, "the potential of the human spirit is clearly long-lasting."

The achievements of the persons I mentioned "are not the achievements of youth; they are built on the attributes of age—wisdom, experience, and deep insights."

"After my failed bid for president in 1992, which delighted my family, I retired from government service, but I did not retire from serving our people outside government. On 2 August 1993, I founded Kilosbayan, a non-partisan, ethics-oriented people organization to arouse public interest in important questions of public policy, on the basis of civilized norms of morality, justice, truth, and ethics.

"On Recto's birthday on 8 February 2000, I founded Bantay ng Katarungan, a non-partisan, independent NGO, for the purpose of reforming and modernizing our system of justice in the Philippines, with my former law partner, former Secretary of Justice Sedfrey Ordoñez, as Chairman. Our watchdogs or sentinels are law students of competence and idealism, recommended to us by the deans of the best law schools in Metro Manila—UP, Ateneo, San Beda, UST, FEU and Lyceum.

No salary

Ambassador Ordoñez and I do not get any salary or compensation for our services, but, at our age, we feel needed and useful, and we are able to make use of our unique experiences and insights, for the benefit of our people, particularly the youth of the land who will come after us—especially in seeking justice for all, especially the poor, forgotten people.

We have only a few remaining years left but serving others for a cause bigger than ourselves is, for us, the very definition of joy, happiness, and fulfillment.

"Many years ago, a group of sociology students in the US surveyed 20 venerable, decrepit elderlies, who had reached the age of 95. One question they asked produced amazingly similar answers. The question was: "If you could live your life all over again, what would you do differently?"

They responded with three things: (1) they would risk more, *hindi laging segurista;* (2) they would meditate more; and (3) they would spend more time and energy pursuing things that would survive after they died.

"More important than the making of a living is the living of a good life—a life of purpose and meaning."

(If you want a copy of the entire speech, please e-mail me at: techinsbrkrs@vasia.com)

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- Cannibalization
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- Careers and opportunities in marketing
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DR. NED ROBERTO, PhD is one of Asia's leading authorities on marketing. He is a much sought after consultant, speaker, author, and educator. He has taught at De La Salle University in Manila, Northwestern University in Chicago and INSEAD in France. He was professor of International Marketing at the Asian Institute of Management for 29 years. In 1983, he received the Philippine Marketing Association's Agora Award for Marketing Education, and in 2004, he was awarded the 1st Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Marketing Educators.

Dr. Roberto has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia such as Procter & Gamble, Citibank, McCann-Erickson, Nestle, AC Nielsen, etc. He is the author (with Philip Kotler) of Social Marketing, which has been translated into seven languages, as well as the best-selling User-Friendly Marketing Research and several other books and countless papers on marketing.

Dr. Roberto earned his MBA and PhD in Marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.

Rave Reviews:

"Dr. Ned is THE marketing guru of the Philippines!"
- Dave Valdes, Senior Vice President, Philippine Daily Inquirer

"User-friendly... describes Ned Roberto's... teaching style which he has used in the courses he has successfully taught for our clients in Indonesia, Malaysia and Taiwan. His hands on, practical approach brings benefits quickly."
- Peter Weldon, Brand Management-Global Marketing, A.C. Nielsen, Hong Kong

"Ned Roberto's expertise has been of immense value to numerous marketing executives working with me to gain a clear understanding of how marketing research can help them make their corporate goals a success."
-MalcolmKelsey, President, Pacific Dynamics Pte Ltd., Singapore

"Articulate, humorous & knowledgeable... Dr. Ned really is an excellent speaker."
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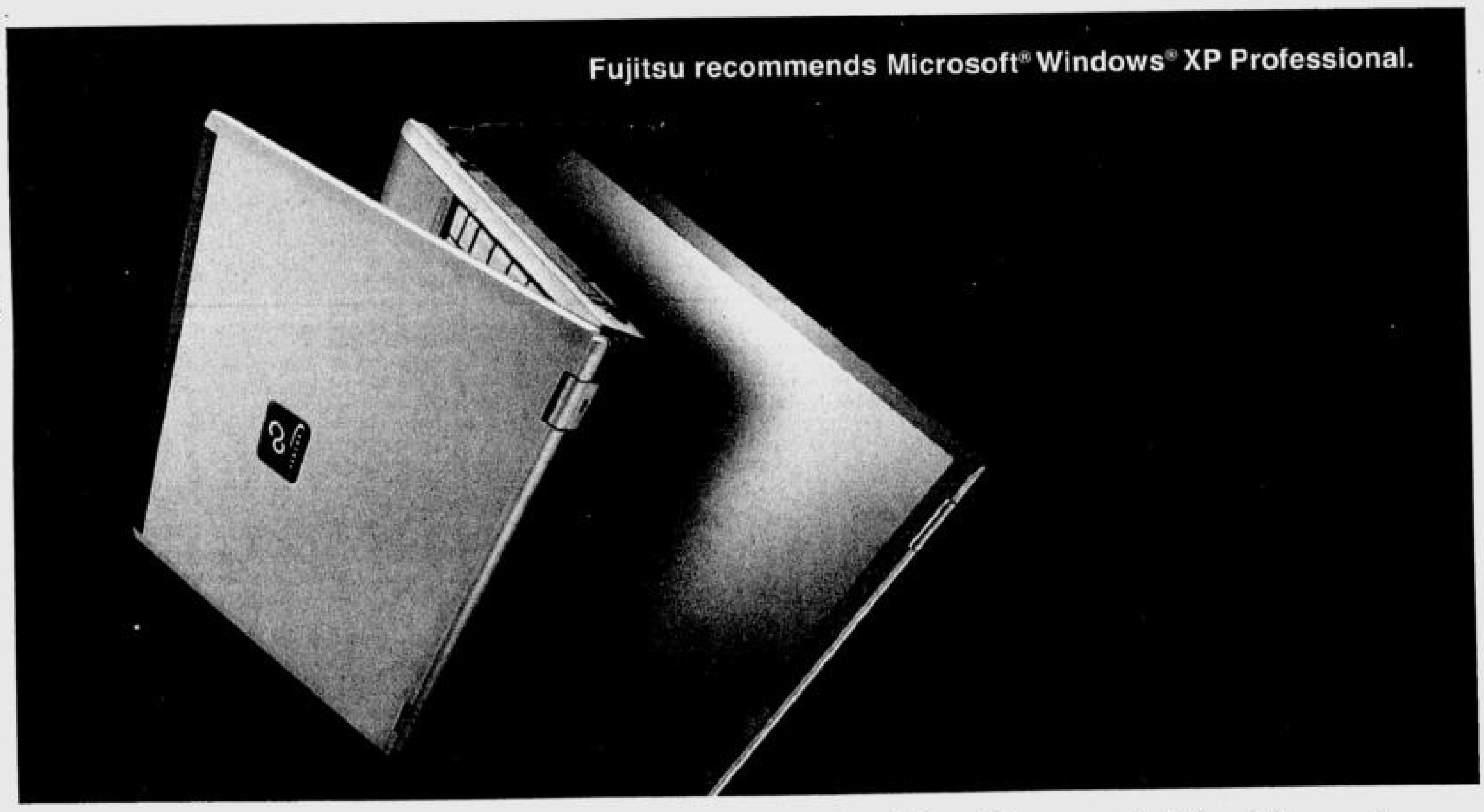
THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE FUJITSU



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intel inside centrino MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

DENR, Boracay dispute turning away investors, developer says

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DISPUTE between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Boracay Island resort owners is turning off foreign investors planning to build world-class amenities in the famous tourist destination, a property developer said.

Boracay Property Holdings Inc. (BPHI), which sold 12 hectares of its property to international hotel chain Shangri-La (Hotels) Pty. Ltd., said the dispute was destroying the confidence of foreign investors that wanted to build facilities for the high-end tourist market.

"It sets back efforts to lure the five-star hotel chains that would elevate Boracay into a world-class tourist destination like Bali in Indonesia or Phuket in Thailand, we may never be able to play catch up with them," said Steve Tajanlangit, vice chairman of BPHI in an interview with reporters.

In a recent dialogue between DENR officials and the resort owners, the government agency insisted it would pursue plans to declare portions of Boracay as alienable and disposable, and open these lands for public auction in which current locators can bid for their own lots.

Local businessmen opposed such plans.

A survey done by the National Mapping and Resource Information Agency (Namria) also showed that even Shangri-La's property, located on the northwest side of Boracay, was likely to be covered by the DENR's plan to reclassify the area as a forest land.

"I don't see how that is possible. Shangri-La's land is titled. Besides, that area is covered by a presidential proclamation last March, specifying the area as a special economic tourism zone. There is a virgin forest area that is also titled but with specific directive no development can take place there except for the open spaces," said Tajanlangit, adding the directive by President Macapagal-Arroyo included BPHI's remaining property.

BPHI, which acquired 80 hectares in 2002 from one of the property units of the Ayala Group, is currently talking to at least two five-star international hotel chains to build facilities similar to the P3.3-billion, 200-room hotel villas that Shangri-La will construct.

Under BPHI's development plan, three hotel chains can be accommodated.

Aboitiz sees turnaround

By Clarissa S. Batino

ABOITIZ Transport Systems Corp. has told stockholders that it would likely turn its operations around in the second quarter, from a net loss of P167 million in the first three months.

"Indications showed we would report positive results in the second quarter," said the company's chief finance officer.

The listed subsidiary of Aboitiz Equity Ventures said that the integration of its transport business should yield positive results for the company.

Had the company consolidated its business as early as 2004, sales would have been 20 percent more than the P8.2 billion booked last year, while income should have been 110 percent more than P310 million in profits during the same period.

Aboitiz Transport president Enrique Aboitiz said the company would improve its efficiency amid the challenges of rising fuel costs, higher taxes and inflation.

"Consumers' wallet have shrunk a little and we need to compete in that atmosphere," he told shareholders last Friday.

The Aboitiz transport firm would also cut costs.

Its president said the company would have to use less ships to burn less fuel.

The company, which controls 60 percent of the sea passenger business and 48 percent of the freight business, currently operates 18 vessels.

Last year, it sold three vessels and booked P420 million in one-time gain.

Aboitiz said the company would continue to sell non-productive assets.

The company asked shareholders to ratify the board of directors' decision to buy affiliated companies and consolidate its transport business for a higher price of P730.95 million.

Last month, the purchase of the five affiliates under a share-swap agreement was estimated at P669 million.

HOUSE OF INVESTMENTS, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of **HOUSE OF INVESTMENTS, INC.**, will be held on **Friday, July 15, 2005** at 2:30 P.M. at Rooms 527-528 Yuchengco Institute for Advanced Studies, 5th Floor, Tower II, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Philippines.

The Agenda of the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice and Certification of a Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders held on July 16, 2004.
4. Approval of the Management Report and the Audited Financial Statements for 2004.
5. Ratification and confirmation of the acts, resolutions and proceedings of the Board of Directors, the Various Committees and the Officers of the Company during the year 2004.
6. Election of Directors for 2005-2006
7. Appointment of External Auditors
8. Such other business that may properly come before the meeting
9. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record as of June 15, 2005 are entitled to vote at said Annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Should you be unable to attend the meeting in person, you may execute the necessary proxy and file the same with the office of the Corporate Secretary at 3/F, Grepalife Bldg., 219 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Philippines at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled meeting.

For your convenience in registering your attendance, please have available some form of identification such as passport, driver's license or voter's I.D.

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Smart bags award

SMART Communications Inc., the country's leading wireless services provider, was cited as the Mobile Operator of the Year in the Philippines at the Asian MobileNews Awards 2005 in Singapore.

On its second year, the Asian MobileNews Awards are presented by Asian MobileNews, a Singapore-based magazine for mobile telecommunications service operators.

Its awardees under the 32 categories are peer-selected. Individuals and companies whose efforts have contributed to the growth of mobile industry and produced in exemplary business results are recognized.

"We believe the award is recognition for our relentless efforts to make mobile phone services more accessible to a growing number of Filipinos at home and overseas through innovative products and services," said Smart president and chief executive officer Napoleon L. Nazareno.

Over the past year, Smart, together with subsidiary Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel), bolstered its industry leadership with a combined subscriber base of 20.2 million as of end-March 2005, equivalent to about 58 percent of the market. Smart is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

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Gabaldon Hall, Club Filipino, Eisenhower cor.
Club Flipino Ave., Greenhills San Juan
(beside Greenhills Shopping Center)

SHANGHAI TOWER
MAKATI CITY

CONDO UNIT	Min. Bid Price
F.A. 35.64 sqm.	P 997,920
F.A. 52.52 sqm.	P1,470,560
F.A. 70.83 sqm.	P1,983,240
F.A. 85.32 sqm.	P2,388,960
F.A. 87.67 sqm.	P2,454,760

PRAISE CONDOMINIUM
MAKATI CITY

MIXED USE CONDO	Min. Bid Price
F.A. 29 sqm.	P 879,930
F.A. 34 sqm.	P1,046,220
F.A. 155 sqm.	P4,664,910
F.A. 255 sqm.	P7,650,090

FORTUNE VILLAGE
VALENZUELA

HOUSE AND LOT and RESIDENTIAL LOT	Min. Bid Price
L.A. 244 sqm. F.A. 120 sqm.	P 1,091,000
L.A. 247 sqm.	P 2,155,000
L.A. 310 sqm. F.A. 350 sqm.	P 3,569,000

MAIA ALTA SUBDIVISION
ANTIPOLO

HOUSE AND LOT	Min. Bid Price
L.A. 109 sqm. F.A. 60 sqm.	P 858,000
L.A. 126 sqm. F.A. 92 sqm.	P 950,000
L.A. 120 sqm. F.A. 80 sqm.	P 1,011,000
L.A. 98 sqm. F.A. 97 sqm.	P 1,112,000
L.A. 173 sqm. F.A. 79 sqm.	P 1,263,000
L.A. 126 sqm. F.A. 92 sqm.	P 1,425,000
L.A. 194 sqm. F.A. 80 sqm.	P 1,425,000

COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS
ANTIPOLO

HOUSE AND LOT	Min. Bid Price
L.A. 266 sqm. F.A. 136 sqm.	P 2,565,000
L.A. 340 sqm. F.A. 147 sqm.	P 2,798,000
L.A. 370 sqm. F.A. 117.75sqm.	P 3,135,000
L.A. 404 sqm. F.A. 166 sqm.	P 3,420,000

LA MEDITERRANEA
DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE

HOUSE AND LOT	Min. Bid Price
L.A. 109 sqm. F.A. 72 sqm.	P 1,102,000
L.A. 110 sqm. F.A. 126 sqm.	P 1,368,000
L.A. 141 sqm. F.A. 70 sqm.	P 874,000
L.A. 130 sqm. F.A. 83 sqm.	P 1,300,000
L.A. 40 sqm. F.A. 83 sqm.	P 958,000

TYCOON CENTER
ORTIGAS CENTER

OFFICE CONDO WITH PARKING	Min. Bid Price
F.A. 72 sqm.	P 2,160,000
F.A. 101 sqm.	P 3,030,000
F.A. 155 sqm.	P 4,650,000

LA RESIDENCIA
LAGUNA

VACANT LOT	Min. Bid Price
L.A. 174 sqm	P 950,000
L.A. 232 sqm	P 1,235,000
L.A. 276 sqm	P 1,355,000
L.A. 300 sqm	P 1,372,000
L.A. 150 sqm.	P 810,000
L.A. 335 sqm	P 1,760,000

PROMENADE SUBDIVISION
LAGUNA

VACANT LOT	Min. Bid Price
L.A. 575 sqm	P 3,365,000
L.A. 739 sqm	P 4,325,000
L.A. 832 sqm	P 4,869,000
L.A. 875 sqm	P 5,013,000

BELLE REVE SUBDIVISION
LAGUNA

VACANT LOT	Min. Bid Price
L.A. 530 sqm	P 2,915,000
L.A. 637 sqm	P 3,550,000
L.A. 615 sqm	P 3,550,000
L.A. 696 sqm	P 4,100,000
L.A. 711 sqm	P 3,920,000
L.A. 735 sqm	P 4,045,000
L.A. 809 sqm	P 4,500,000

BF RESORT EXECUTIVE
LAS PIÑAS

HOUSE AND LOT	Min. Bid Price
L.A. 270 sqm.	P 1,420,000
L.A. 150 sqm. F.A. 58 sqm.	P 1,350,000
L.A. 240 sqm. F.A. 385 sqm.	P 5,160,000

DIVINA GRACIA LA PAZ
ILOILO CITY

HOUSE AND LOT	Min. Bid Price
L.A. 320 sqm	P 669,000
L.A. 845 sqm	P2,328,000
L.A. 312 sqm	P 800,000
L.A. 313 sqm	P 744,000
L.A. 312 sqm	P 741,000
L.A. 645 sqm	P1,348,000
L.A. 313 sqm	P 655,000

CALOOCAN

1RSB-0-CL1 - HOUSE & LOT
-L.A. 153 sqm. F.A. 70.18 sqm.
-20 Athena Vista Verde North
Min. Bid Price : P 969,000

1RSB-0-CL5 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 216 sqm F.A. 175 sqm.
B1 L17 Hillcrest Subd.
Min. Bid Price : P 2,138,000

LAS PIÑAS

1RSB-O-LP3 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm F.A. 105 sqm.
B7-A L13, Revelation St.
CH - Classic,, Almanza
Min. Bid Price : P 1,233,000

1RSB-O-LP5 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 315 sqm. F.A. 194 sqm.
2 Uranium St., Camella Homes
Classic IV
Min. Bid Price : P 2,070,000

1RSB-O-LP4 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 146 sqm F.A. 180 sqm.
No. 54 Mrouet St., Sta. Cecilia Village,
Talon Dos
Min. Bid Price : P 1,620,000

1RSB-O-LP6 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 238 sqm F.A. 112 sqm.
No. 51, Dao Street, Pilar Village,
Min. Bid Price : P 1,800,000

SAN JUAN

KBP 193 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 250 sqm F.A. 154.10 sqm.
#140, G. Reyes, Balong Bato, S.J,
Manila
Min. Bid Price: P 3,200,000.00

MALABON

CSB 04 - WARE HOUSE BLDG
L.A 1,000sqm F.A 383sqm
BRGY PANGHULO
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,500,000.00

MAKATI CITY

1RSB-O-MK1 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 273 sqm F.A 193 sqm.
Pembo, Fort Bonifacio
Min. Bid Price : P 2,250,000

CSB 02 - APRT BLDG
L.A 240sqm F.A 109sqm
Along Escuela St., GUADALUPE
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,000,000.00

CSB 03 - PENTHOUSE CONDO
F.A 60.86 sqm
8th floor Windsor Tower
Legaspi Village
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,600,000

LBC 071 - COMM'L CONDO
F.A. 90sqm.
CITYLAND 10, 23/F H.V. Dela Costa
Min. Bid Price : P 3,900,000

MANILA

1RSB-O-ML1 - 2 units
CONDOMINIUM
FA 128 sqm
Empire Plaza Condo, Unit 1207
Min Bid Price : P 4,365,000.00
MARIKINA

2RSB-0-MR1 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 420 sqm. F.A. 310 sqm.
Twinville Subd.
Min. Bid Price : P 3,150,000

MUNTINLUPA

LDB 002 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm F.A: 170 sqm.
#93 Everlasting Circle, South
Greenheights Vill.
Putatan, Muntinlupa City
Minimum Bid Price: P1,500,000

PARANAQUE

2RSB-V-PQ3 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 331 sqm
L3 B10 Everlasting cor., Violet St.,
Marcelo Green Village
Min. Bid Price : P 1,503,000

1RSB-0-PQ1 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 129 sqm FA 245 sqm
Shenandoah Hs. 15-A Shenandoah St.,
Shenandoah Homes
Min. Bid Price : P 2,610,000

PASAY

1RSB-O-PY1 - OFFICE CONDO
F.A. 47 sqm.
Unit 1108, 11th Flr Buendia Tower,
Min. Bid Price : P 1,395,000.00

1RSB-O-PY2 -OFFICE CONDO
FA 130 sqm.
Room 603, 6th Flr. Buendia Towers
Min Bid Price : P 1,710,000.00

ORTIGAS CENTER

2RSB-O-MN1 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 154 sqm F.A. 135 sqm.
L2 B12 Lakeshore Drive, Tunasan
Min Bid Price P 1,639,000
ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY

1RSB-0-PG1 - HOUSE & LOT
F.A 246 sqm L.A. 111 sqm
Prague St. Pasig Greenpark
Min. Bid Price : P 1,273,000

1RSB-V-PG2 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 147.94 sqm 2 UNITS
Unit F-301 / F-302 Hampton Gardens,
Maybunga
Min. Bid Price: P 4,703,000

1RSB-V-PG1 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 30 sqm.
Unit L101-A-L101 OMM
San Miguel Ave.
Min. Bid Price : P 2,381,000

RYL 001 - RSD'L CONDO. w/ PARKING
FA 128 sqm.
AIC GOLD TOWER
Back of Robinsons Galleria
Min. Bid Price: P3,840,000

AS 001A & B - OFFICE CONDO
FA 165.7 sqm. / 181 sqm.
Jollibee Center Condo
Near Robinsons Galleria
Min Bid Price: P5,799,500 /
P5,635,000

PASIG CITY

EM 001 - RSDL. / COMM'L. LOT
LA 700 sqm.
Capitol Drive, Pasig City
Min. Bid Price. P11,200,000

QUEZON CITY

CYC 02 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 805 sqm. F.A. 735 sqm.
Flicker St., Greenmeadows Subd.
Min Bid Price. P29,000,000

LBC 074 - RSD'L BUILDING
L.A. 600.30 sqm F.A. 437.20 / 162
sqm.
Talayan Village, Quezon City
Min. Bid Price P16,000,000

CYC 01 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 108.6 sqm FA 167.05 sqm
NEAR 20th ave., CUBAO
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,500,000.00

LBC 064 - RSDL LOT
L.A 300 sqm
Ipil St. Sitio Sevilla NEOPOLITAN VI
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,700,000

LBC 065 - RSDL LOT
L.A 999sqm
Roses St. Brgy. FAIRVIEW
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,500,000

1RSB-0-QC5 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 37.40 sqm F.A. 58.65 sqm.
Unit 207-G South Triangle
Min. Bid Price : P 1,935,000

1RSB-0-QC1 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 58.63 sqm F.A. 119 sqm.
15B L42 Unit2 West Fairview
Min. Bid Price : P 1,714,000.00

1RSB-V-QC1 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 325 sqm.
L14 B26 J Fuentes Dr. 1426 North
Susana Exec Vill.
Min. Bid Price : P 2,633,000

1RSB-0-QC2 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 126 sqm. F.A. 192 sqm
Unit 5 #112 Pluto Carmel Subd. Proj. 6
Min. Bid Price : P 2,785,000

1RSB-V-QC3- HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 54sqm. F.A. 66sqm
B1 L116 Grandwood Villas Old Balara
Min. Bid Price : P 2,138,000

1RSB-0-QC3 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 73 sqm.
L8-D Jem 3 Subd Banlat
Min. Bid Price : P 1,150,000

1RSB-0-QC4- TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 60 sqm F.A. 100 sqm
Unit 8 Adelfa 5 Park Townhomes
Min. Bid Price : P 1,460,000

2RSB-V-QC1 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 378 sqm. F.A. 642 sqm.
23 Pinesville, Greenview Exec. Subd.
Min. Bid Price : P 7,934,000

1RSB-0-QC6- HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 79.3 sqm. F.A. 108 sqm.
11 Camia DRJ Subd. Sauyo
Novaliches
Min. Bid Price : P 921,000

1RSB-V-QC4 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 61.8 sqm. F.A. 70 sqm.
Unit 9 Apa Comp TS
Min. Bid Price : P 1,112,000

TAGUIG

LDB 003 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 241 sqm. FA Nil
#4 Horseshoe St., Zone 4, Signal
Village, Taguig
Minimum Bid Price: P1,000,000

VALENZUELA

LBC 015 - RSDL BLDG.
L.A. 140sqm F.A. 104sqm
Gumamela Ext., H.T. De Leon
Min. Bid Price : P 1,100,000

1RSB-0-VL4 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 166 sqm. F.A. 298.5 sqm.
#3 Little Baguio Marulas
Min. Bid Price : P 2,351,000

1RSB-0-VL6 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 215.8 sqm. F.A. 258.7 sqm.
5043 Sto. Rosario Modesto St.,
Mapulang Lupa
Min. Bid Price : P 2,603,000

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

1RSB-0-AT6 - RSDL CMPD.
L.A. 1,305 sqm F.A. 744 sqm.
#27 Sunrise cor. 4th Ave. Beverly Hills
Min. Bid Price. P 11,115,000

2RSB-V-AT4 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,030 sqm.
Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price : P 3,800,000

2RSB-V-AT13- RSDL LOT
L.A. 276 sqm.
B4 L19 Bentley Park Subdivision
Min. Bid Price : P 827,000

2RSB-V-AT16- RSDL LOT
L.A. 265 sqm.
B4 L9 Bentley Park Subdivision
Min. Bid Price : P 839,000

LBC 058 - RSDL LOT
L.A 502sqm
Brgy. Mambugan, ANTIPOLO
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,200,000

CAINTA, TAYTAY, ANGONO, RIZAL

2RSB-V-PG3 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 1,768sqm.
Felix Ave., Cainta
Min. Bid Price : P 16,150,000.00

2RSB-V-AG1 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 116 sqm. F.A. 202 sqm.
Doña Nieves, Sto. Niño, Angono
Min. Bid Price : P 1,710,000

2RSB-0-TY3 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm. F.A. 148 sqm.
Ridgemont Exec. Vill., San Isidro,
Taytay
Min. Bid Price : P 1,710,000

2RSB-0-SM4 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 240 sqm. F.A. 232 sqm.
L29 B5 Marvi Hills Subd., San Mateo
Min. Bid Price : P 1,615,000

1RSB-0-BN1 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 50 sqm. F.A. 60 sqm.
Binangonan, Rizal
Min. Bid Price : P 1,645,000

CSB 26 - 2 LOTS W/ WAREHOUSE
BLDG.
L.A. 1,337sqm
L.A. 2,481sqm
#6 Valley Golf Drive, Mapundan
Min. Bid Price: P 28,700,000

KBP 241 - DUPLEX
F.A. 408.44 sqm.
L12 & 13 B23 Ridgemont Ave.
Twin Peak Drive
Ridgemont Exec. Subd., Taytay, Rizal
Min. Bid Price: P 4,200,000.00

BATANGAS

LDB 177A- COMM'L/ RSD'L LOT
LA 100 sqm
Independencia, Lemery, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P1,200,000

LDB 177B - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 109 sqm.
Tierra Alta, Taal, Batangas
Min. Bid Price P1,616,250

LDB 178 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 501 sqm.
Poblacion, Tanauan, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P4,000,000

LDB 179 -HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 276 sqm.
Villa Nueves Subd., Bauan
Min. Bid Price. P916,666

MMA 01 - BEACH FRONT LOTS
VERDE ISLAND
L.A. 192 sqm. Min. Bid Price: P1,248,000
L.A. 282 sqm. Min. Bid Price P1,833,000
L.A. 304 sqm. Min. Bid Price: P1,976,000

CSB 16 - RAW LAND
L.A 68,539sqm (13 LOTS w/ Taal View)
Brgy. Quiling, TALISAY
Minimum Bid Price. P 6,853,900

KBP 233- 3 STOREY SCHOOL BLDG.
L.A. 1,113 sqm.
#53 N. Gonzales St., Brgy 2
Poblacion, Lanauan
Min. Bid Price. P 18,000,000

LDB 004 - RSDL. AGRI LOT
L.A. 9,062 sqm.
Calamias, Lipa City, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 6,500,000

LDB 005 - HOSPITAL BUILDING
L.A. 2,012 sqm.
Gualberto Ave., Rosario, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 12,000,000

LDB 006 - COMM'L BUILDING
L.A. 287 sqm.
Gualberto Ave., Rosario, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P5,000,000

LDB 008 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 346 sqm.
Abacan Subd., Calicanto, Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 950,000

LDB 024 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 750 sqm.
Lipa Countryside Subd., Lipa City,
Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 1,100,000

LDB 026 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 7,657 sqm.
Darasa, Tanauan
Min. Bid Price: P 2,500,000

LDB 033 - RSD'L LOT W/ IMPVT
L.A. 2,613 sqm.
Banay-banay 1, San Jose,
Batangas
Min. Bid Price: P 1,700,000

LDB 039 - COMM'L LOT
LA 1480 sqm.
Sabang Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,068,000

LDB 061 - RSD'L / ORCHARD
L.A. 4,400 sqm.
San Pedro West, Malvar, Batangas
Min. Bid Price. P 1,010,250

BULACAN

LBC 005 - 3 RSDL LOT
L.A 30,454 sqm
Calawitan, SAN ILDEFONSO
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,000,000

LBC 006 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 994sqm
Brgy San Juan, SAN ILDEFONSO
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,500,000

LBC 010 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 300sqm, F.A 308sqm
Bo. Sabang, BALIUAG
Minimum Bid Price: P 6,300,000

LBC 017 - 2 RSDL LOT w/ IMPRVMT
L.A 605sqm
BALIUAG, Bulacan
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,100,000

LBC 032 - COMM'L w/ IMPRVMT
L.A 193sqm, F.A 137sqm
Dr. Gonzales St. Sabang BALIUAG
Minimum Bid Price. P 2,200,000

LBC 034 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 291sqm
Bo. Camalig Pantok MEYCAUAYAN
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,170,000

LBC 035 - 2 RSDL LOT
L.A 240sqm, L.A 321sqm
GOLD RIDGE Estate, Bo. Tabang,
Guiguinto
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,300,000

1RSB-V-BL15 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 480 sqm
Eucalyptus St., Greenplains., Calumpit
Min. Bid Price: P 1,296,000

2RSB-V-BL3 - IND'L WAREHOUSE
L.A. 845 sqm. F.A. 809 sqm.
RIS Industrial Complex, Mercado St.,
Guiguinto
Min. Bid Price: P 5,301,000

1RSB-O-BL20 - RSDL LOT
L.A 5,497 sqm
Bario Mabalo, Malolos
Min. Bid Price P 4,950,000

1RSB-0-BL1 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 764 sqm. F.A. 132 sqm.
Lot 678 Agnaya, Plandel
Min. Bid Price. P 2,808,000

1RSB-O-BL14 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,958 sqm.
Lot 3004 C Camangyanan,
Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 2,069,000

1RSB-O-BL3 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 45 sqm. F.A. 23 sqm.
569 Parulan, Plandel
Min. Bid Price: P 903,000

1RSB-0-BL7 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 2625sqm. F.A. 100 sqm.
Cutcot Pulilan
Min. Bid Price. P 6,232,000

2RSB-O-BL2 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 350 sqm. F.A. 120 sqm.
B2 L5 & L7 Violeta Metroville, Bocaue
Min. Bid Price: P 2,454,000

1RSB-O-BL11 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,421 sqm.
Camia cor. Everlasting Carissa
Homes SJDM
Min. Bid Price: P 1,260,000

1RSB-O-BL16 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,528 sqm. F.A. 305 sqm.
229 Manatal Pandi
Min. Bid Price. P 4,828,000

1RSB-O-BL18 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 207 sqm. F.A. 60 sqm.
89 Sumapang Bata, Malolos
Min. Bid Price: P 972,000

1RSB-O-BL21 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,708 sqm. F.A. 100 sqm.
218 Liwasan San Vicente, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price. P 2,138,000

1RSB-O-BL24 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 259 sqm F.A. 150 sqm.
B37 L6 Buhangin Garden Vill.
Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 2,565,000

1RSB-O-BL9 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 540 sqm. F.A. 200 sqm.
5066 Mary Grace Subd. Sto. Niño,
Plandel
Min. Bid Price: P 2,024,000

2RSB-O-BL1 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 79 sqm F.A. 48 sqm.
L1087 Bocaue
Min. Bid Price. P 1,007,000

BAGUIO CITY

CSB 21 - COMM'L BLDG
L.A 1,705sqm F.A 2,907sqm
Kilometer 5 TRINIDAD ROAD
Minimum Bid Price. P 40,000,000 +
7 Million Tax

BUTUAN CITY

CBP 01 - FISH POND convertible to
INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A. 284,289 sqm.
Near Int'l Port of Masao
Min Bid Price: P18,000,000

CBP 02 - FISH POND convertible to
INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A 40,000 sqm. F.A. 19,041 sqm.
Near Int'l. Port of Masao
Min Bid Price: P10,000,000

CAVITE

CSB 11- RAW LAND
L.A 83,332sqm
West of MANILA SOUTHWOODS Phil
Bo. Baybay, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price. P 21,332,800

CSB 12- RAW LAND
L.A 78,277sqm
Brgy. Road, Brgy. DE OCAMPO
Minimum Bid Price: P 58,000,000

CSB 13 - 2 RSDL LOT
L.A 7,644sqm
Poblacion, SILANG
Minimum Bid Price: P 14,000,000

CSB 15- HOUSE & LOT
L.A 279.5sqm F.A 108sqm
Along Rd. Noveleta, Brgy. Binakayan,
KAWIT
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,000,000

LDB 073 - 2 STRY. HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1020 sqm FA 234 sqm.
Maguyam, Silang, Cavite
Min. Bid Price. P 2,676,000

LDB 074 - RSD'L / COMMERCIAL
LA 277 sqm. FA 70 sqm.
Loyola St. Carmona, Cavite
Min. Bid Price: P1,510,000

LDB 078 - HOUSE & LOT
Yakal St., Cor Dau St. Bgy. Aniban,
Bacoor
LA 652 sqm. FA 250 sqm
Min. Bid Price. P2,500,000

2RSB-O-CV1 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 231 sqm F.A. 130 sqm
Blk. 04 lot 23, Via Verde Village,
Poinsettia, Dasma
Min. Bid Price: P 1,166,000

CEBU CITY

KBP 232- VACANT LOT
L.A. 1,635 sqm.
Bo. Agus, Lapu-lapu City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,200,000.00

LBC 041 - RAW LAND
L.A 14,450sqm
Brgy PIT - OS
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,800,000

COTABATO

KBP 235 - 3 STOREY RSD'L BLDG.
L.A. 811 sqm. F.A. 369.58 sqm.
#29 Quezon Ave., Cotabato City
Min. Bid Price: P 10,000,000.00

GENERAL SANTOS

KBP 226 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 6,824 sqm.
Bamo Bula, Gen. San. City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,400,000.00

KBP 247- 1 STOREY RSD'L BLDG.
L.A 500 sqm F.A 150 sqm.
Peres Subd., Puro Malakas, Gen. San
City
Min. Bid Price: P 900,000.00

LBC 047 - RSDL LOT
L.A 12,632sqm
Meneses St., San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price: P 6,000,000

ILOCOS NORTE

LBC 050 - RSDL BLDG
L.A 92sqm
Brgy. 3 Cangguranan, BATAC
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,100,000

ILOILO

KBP 205 - 4 ADJOINING LOTS
L.A. 229,572 sqm. F.A. 338 sqm.
Brgy. Gewahon, Sto., Padios, Sara,
Iloilo City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,500,000.00

LAGUNA

LDB 171 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 8,696 sqm. (131 titles)
Villa Adelina VIII, Brgy. Bubukal,
Sta. Cruz, Laguna
Min. Bid Price P6,600,000

LBC 90 - WAREHOUSE
L.A. 229 sqm. FA 505 sqm.
L.A. 206 sqm FA 475 sqm.
Villa Zenaida del Pilar, Cal., Laguna
Min. Bid Price. P 6,118,000

LDB 103 - COMM'L BLDG.
L.A. 2,700 sqm F.A. 997 sqm
L.A. 2,700 sqm F.A. 235 sqm
L.A. 4,908sqm
Brgy. Lecheria, Calamba City
Min. Bid Price. P 90,000,000

LDB 112 - RSD'L / CMM'L LOT
L.A. 3,000 sqm / 1,000 sqm
Bgy. Pagawasan, Sta. Cruz, Laguna
Min. Bid Price. P20,000,000

LDB 114A & B- COMMERCIAL LOTS
LA 720 sqm / 720 sqm.
Brgy Don Jose Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Min. Bid Price. P9,000,000 each

KBP 230 - THEATRE
L.A. 2,085 sqm.
#285 J. Gonzales St., Poblacion,
Biñan, Laguna
Min. Bid Price: P 38,000,000.00

LDB 093 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 6,302 sqm
Parian, Calamba, Laguna
Min. Bid Price: P11,500,000

LDB 094 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 351 sqm.
Sala, Cabuyao, Laguna
Min. Bid Price: P1,404,000

LDB 097 - RSD'L LOT W/2 STRY.
BLDG
L.A. 494 sqm FA 340 sqm. / 40 sqm.
Filinvest, Biñan, Laguna
Min. Bid Price: P 6,000,000

LDB 099 - RSD'L / COMM'L LOT
L.A. 435 sqm.
Brgy. Tadlac, Los Baños, Laguna
Min. Bid Price: P 1,500,000

LDB 100 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 1038 sqm.
Brgy Mayondon, Los Baños, Laguna
Min Bid Price: P 4,764,000

LDB 101 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 1139
Grand Riviera Subd. Bulilan Sur, Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 2,278,000

LDB 102 - RSD'L/ COMM'L LOT
L.A. 818
Lakeview Subd., San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price: P 2,200,000

LDB 109 - VACANT LOT
L.A 2,000 sqm. / 1,000 sqm.
Brgy. Pansol, Calamba, Laguna
Min. Bid Price P 6,000,000

LDB 110 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 150 sqm FA 280 sqm.
Pulong Sta. Cruz, Brgy. 15, Sta. Rosa,
Laguna
Min. Bid Price: P 2,266,000

LDB 113 - RESIDENTIAL /
COMMERCIAL
L.A 818 sqm.
Lakeview Subd., San Pablo City
Min. Bid Price. P1,800,000

1RSB-O-LG28 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 110 sqm.
Pacita Complex, no. 13 C.P. Garcia
Min. Bid Price: P 1,994,000

1RSB-O-LG29 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 252sqm. F.A. 100sqm
Lakeshore Homes, Subd.,
#240 Rosal St.,
Sto. Domingo, Bay
Min. Bid Price. P 1,323,000

1RSB-O-LG32 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 181 sqm FA 167 sqm
B8 L 4,5,6,&7 Don Miguel, Subd., Pila
Min. Bid Price. P 5,292,000

1RSB-O-LG31 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 190/298 sqm. FA 430sqm
B3 L 31 & 32 Jamaica Hills Subd.,
Bambang
Min. Bid Price: P 4,815,000

1RSB-V-L25 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 150/220/174 sqm.
Blk. 21 lot's 33-35, Villa Esmeralda
San LorenzoVillage, Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price. P 2,277,000

NAGA CITY

LBC 056 - 2 RSDL LOT W/ IMPRVMT
L.A 233sqm
L.A 299sqm
M. Castro St. CITY HEIGHTS Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,034,000

PAMPANGA

CSB 10 - WARE HOUSE
L.A 4,000sqm F.A 510sqm
Dudurol Rd. Brgy. Sulipan, APALIT
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,050,000

PANGASINAN

LBC 043 - 4 STOREY BLDG
L.A 91sqm
Bo. Pogo, Chico, Dagupan
Minimum Bid Price. P 4,500,000

LBC 045- RSDL BLDG w/
WAREHOUSE
L.A 974sqm, F.A 771sqm
Brgy Bacayao, Dagupan
Minimum Bid Price. P 3,200,000

QUEZON

LBC 062 - AGRI-LOT w/ FISHPOND
L.A 90,181 sqm
Ilayan Caluan, AGDANGAN
Minimum Bid Price: P2,700,000

LDB 125- HOUSE & LOT
L.A 210 sqm / 114sqm.
Argao St., Candelaria, Quezon
Min. Bid Price. P 1,600,000

LDB 144 - VACANT LOTS
LA 2,221.74 sqm.
Lot 3448 Bo. Dumaca, Lucena City
Min. Bid Price P2,500,000

LDB 145 - VACANT LOTS
L.A 3,504 sqm.
Lot 310-C,D,E Bo. Masin Norte,
Candelaria
Min. Bid Price: P1,300,000

LDB 148 - RSD'L LOT w/
Improvement
LA 215 / 200 sqm. FA 210 sqm.
Robles Subd., Brgy. Masalukot I,
Candelaria
Min. Bid Price: P 2,445,000

TAGAYTAY

CSB 17 – 3 RSDL LOTS
ST JOSEPH Subd. Brgy. Mendez
TAGAYTAY
L.A. 349sqm / 199 sqm.
Min Bid Price: P 1,745,000 / P
995,000

ZAMBALES

LBC 069 - 3DOOR TOWN HOUSE
L.A 460sqm, F.A 260sqm
Bo. Matain, SUBIC
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,300,000

[illegible] Properties and prices [illegible]

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US consumers more upbeat

CHICAGO—US consumer confidence turned much more upbeat in June, helped at least by brief relief in gasoline pump prices and a rising stock market, a report showed on Friday.

Separately, government data showed the current account deficit, the broadest measure of US trade with the rest of the world, hit a record high in the first quarter.

The University of Michigan's closely watched measure of consumer sentiment surged to 94.8 from 86.9 in May, its highest level since January. Wall Street's median forecast was 89.0.

Assessments of current conditions and future expectations both advanced strongly, and the index outperformed gains in other sentiment indicators released recently.

"Households feel better about the economy because of the recent slide in gasoline prices and increases in equity markets," said Steven Wood, economist at Insight Economics.

Economists said the day's reports further cemented expectations the Federal Reserve would press on with its program of rate increases.

World oil prices pulled back during May, while US equity prices rose strongly from mid-May through early June, when the Michigan sentiment survey was compiled.

Some economists cited continued low mortgage rates and the red-hot US housing market as another boost for sentiment.

Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of overall US economic activity, and any improvement in confidence could bode well for a pick-up in growth.

"I think we are beginning to see a shift in the tempo of the expansion. Other variables have indicated that lately. We may see an acceleration," said Bill Hummer, chief economist at Wayne Hummer Investments.

However, energy prices are accelerating again, leaving some to worry that gains in consumer sentiment could be short-lived.

New York crude oil futures hit a record high of $58.60 per barrel on Friday before settling at $58.47, up 3.3. percent on the day.

"We are a bit nervous that the rebound in oil prices in the past couple of weeks will lift retail gas prices, dampening sentiment," said Ian Shepherdson, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics in Valhalla, New York.

Some economists think the economy will struggle to cope if crude prices rise above $60 per barrel and hold there for a prolonged stretch.

US equities rose on the consumer sentiment data, but gains were trimmed by the oil price rally.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended up 0.42 percent at 10,623.07 points—its highest close since mid-March.

The US current account deficit hit a record $195.1 billion, the Commerce Department said, driven by a growing merchandise trade gap and an increase in unilateral transfers, such as US aid for victims of the tsunami in south Asia in late December last year. *Reuters*

Wall Street cautious

NEW YORK—A strong week for Wall Street has propelled the main broad-market indicator into positive territory. But analysts are divided on whether the recent run is the start of a summer rally.

In the week to Friday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average advanced 1.05 percent to 10,623.07 after its seventh straight winning session.

The Standard and Poor's 500, seen as the market's main broad-market indicator, turned positive for the year with a gain of 1.49 percent to 1,216.96.

The Nasdaq tech-heavy index climbed 1.31 percent for the week to close Friday at 2,090.11.

The market managed to keep its upward momentum despite mixed economic news, but investors appeared relieved over data early in the week showing inflation in check.

"Good news (low inflation) was offset by bad news—weaker than expected retail activity, and the prospect of future weakness in the manufacturing sector," said Eric Lascelles, economist at TD Bank Financial Group.

But he said "the overall US economic outlook for 2005 remains fairly bright, with robust growth on tap for the rest of the year."

But some analysts said the market was riding momentum more than reacting to economic news, and doubted whether the rally had staying power.

"The market had a tailwind all week" despite mixed economic news, said Dick Green at Briefing.com.

"But we aren't jumping on board the recent mini-rally as a sign of a strong summer ahead. We remain neutral for the intermediate term and wouldn't be surprised to see the market retreat over the next two weeks as the market focus shifts to second quarter earnings reports."

Paul Nolte at Hinsdale Associates said the market is "still trying to work off the overbought May and building a base for a decent summer rally."

But he said institutional traders and hedge funds appear to be cashing out even while small investors are plowing in.

Linda Duessel, analyst at Federated Investments, said she expects a long "sideways market for stocks."

"This could be a period of a decade or more, during which stocks end up pretty much where they started, albeit with price fluctuation along the way," Duessel said in a note to clients. *AFP*

Former Tyco CEO, CFO found guilty

NEW YORK—Former Tyco International Ltd. chief executive Dennis Kozlowski and finance chief Mark Swartz were found guilty on Friday of stealing more than $150 million, giving prosecutors pursuing the recent wave of corporate scandals one of their biggest victories to date.

Kozlowski, 58, and Swartz, 44, were each found guilty of 22 counts of grand larceny, conspiracy, fraud and falsifying business records. Both former executives were found not guilty on one charge of falsifying documents.

The two were grim-faced but stoic as the convictions were read. Kozlowski's wife had tears in her eyes.

"We are disappointed and will deal with this on appeal," said Swartz's attorney, Charles Stillman. Kozlowski's lawyer, Stephen Kaufman, affirmed that his client would also appeal.

Asked whether he was surprised by the verdict, Kaufman said, "surprise would be the understatement."

Both men could be sentenced to 25 years in a state prison on the most serious charge of grand larceny. Judge Michael Obus set a follow-up hearing for Aug. 2 to discuss sentencing.

Swartz and Kozlowski will remain free on bail, and are not considered a flight risk, according to the judge.

The Tyco scandal included lurid details of how Kozlowski used company money to support an extravagant lifestyle, including a $2 million birthday party that he threw for his wife in Sardinia, and the purchase of a $6,000 shower curtain and a $15,000 umbrella stand for his $18 million Manhattan apartment.

He became a symbol of corporate excess when the series of scandals broke in 2001-2002, leading to the introduction of a tough new corporate reform law, known as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Besides accusations of stealing more than $150 million in secretly forgiven loans and undeserved bonuses, Kozlowski and Swartz also were accused of defrauding shareholders by selling $575 million in Tyco stock while misrepresenting the company's finances. *Reuters*

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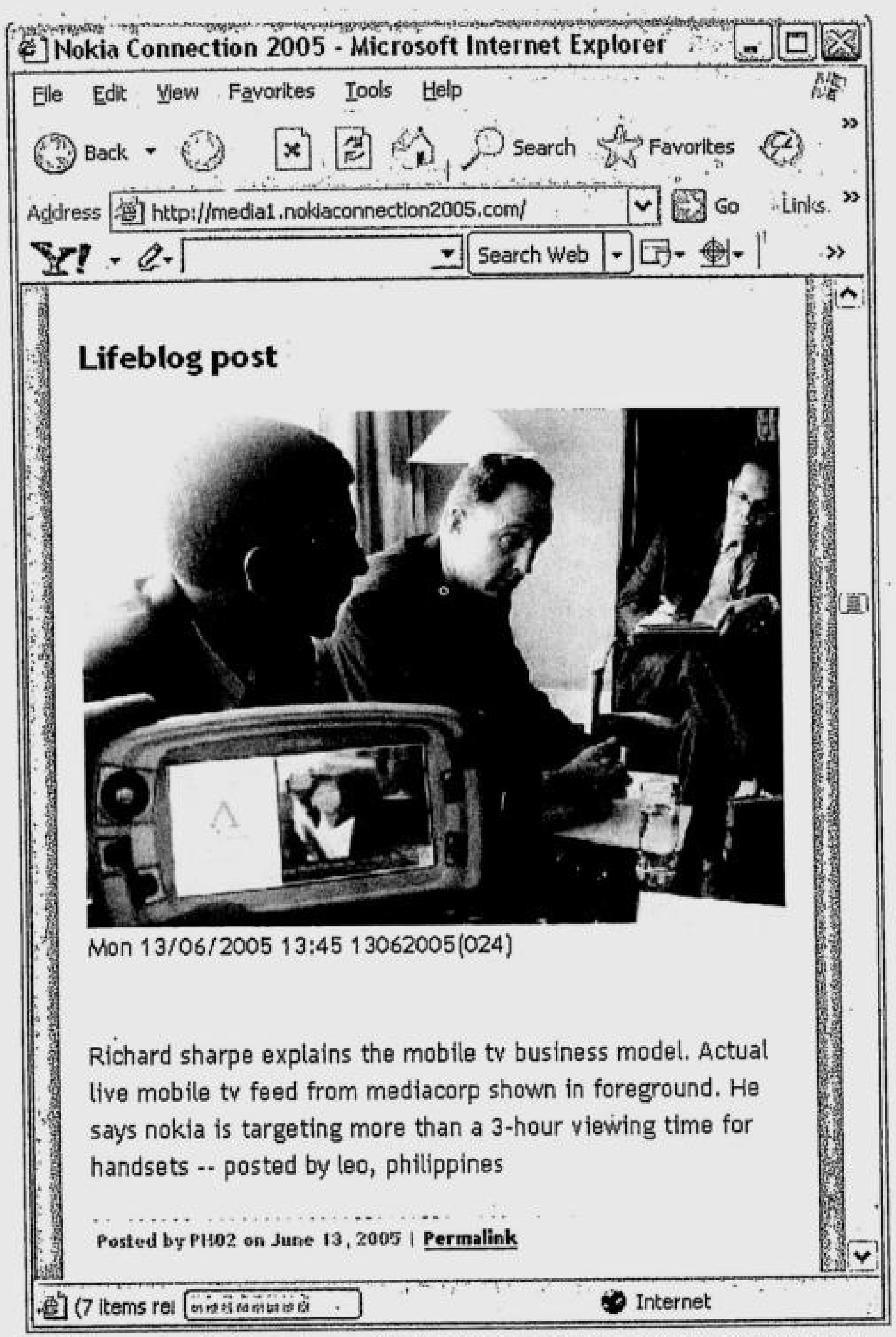
INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

Text us your feedback: inquirer it name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Nokia shows live 3G capabilities



Lifeblog post

Mon 13/06/2005 13:45 13062005(024)

Richard sharpe explains the mobile tv business model. Actual live mobile tv feed from mediacorp shown in foreground. He says nokia is targeting more than a 3-hour viewing time for handsets -- posted by leo, philippines

Posted by PH02 on June 13, 2005 | Permalink

TWO live samples of 3G technology applications: The screenshot shows fast mobile blog update, not just text but with a high-resolution photo. The photo itself shows in the foreground a live digital broadcast of Channel News Asia on an N7710.

By Leo Magno

IN NOVEMBER 2001, Nokia demoed in Hong Kong a prototype of the 7650, the world's first GSM camera phone. Back then, a phone with a camera drew ooohs and aaahs from consumers, what with a GPRS setup in Hong Kong as we sent pictures to one another and even wirelessly to a PC for printing.

While others were ecstatic after the Hong Kong demo, I felt saddened by the state of the country's telecommunications industry. MMS and GPRS were still far off, and having been given a taste of how images could be captured and sent wirelessly via cellular, I was depressed by the way the telecom infrastructure in the Philippines was moving slowly.

Fast forward to June, 2005.

This time around, the demo grounds were in Singapore, and Nokia set up for a week a 3G proof-of-concept exercise. Four years later, still images had become passé, and so this time around Nokia demonstrated how live video could be sent via cellular if only 3G regulatory measures and business models could be finalized.

Again, I went back to the Philippines from Singapore depressed, as I did from Hong Kong. Because in reality, 3G is still far off in our country where wiretapping methods are given more importance over a nationwide broadband cellular network.

3G is short for third-generation cellular technology. Let's cut through the specs and just say that it offers much faster speeds through which one could send and receive data via cellular. Two applications that would be apt for such a network are video calls and live TV via cellular. Nokia demonstrated this and more in partnership with MediaCorp, M1, Starhub and SingTel.

Before, several methods were used to try to send video via cellular in the absence of 3G. One was to offer streaming video by downloading a clip from a server. This clip is first reformatted from the original broadcasting source, meaning you don't get to view it live. Another was to offer a slideshow of still images while live audio played in the background. Yet another was to offer stripped-down video versions of less than 10 frames per second, compared to TV's 30 frames per second. The result was a choppy and rough video feed while audio was tolerable at best.

At Nokia Connection 2005, we watched MediaCorp's Channel News Asia from our 3G demo phones, with a lag time of only about a second. While the partnership with MediaCorp and M1 was only good from June 13 to 17 throughout Singapore, mobile TV via 3G is already being pilot-tested in other parts of the world. Pilot tests are currently being conducted in Finland, Germany and France. O2 will start its own pilot in the United Kingdom next month, and so will CrownCastle in the United States. More tests are scheduled next month in the Netherlands and Australia. In Asia, Taiwan and Malaysia have announced similar plans for mobile TV.

The broadcast signal from MediaCorp was being sent to a digital broadcast transmitter at Bukit Bator in Singapore to provide island-wide digital broadcast. The digital signal is then sent via 3G using the DVB-H (Digital Video Broadcasting-Handheld) standard. The demo phones, the Nokia N7710, were paired with a Nokia streamer and a mobile DVB-H receiver. Other digital mobile broadcast standards are being tested in Korea and Japan, and Nokia says it will have to create phones specifically for the Japanese market while pushing for the DVB-H standard. While Nokia claims to be client-side video-player-agnostic, the live feed for the demo used only RealMedia although Nokia says it is conducting tests with other players like Windows Media Player.

At first glance, one would think that in this setup, the operator has no involvement in the digital 3G broadcast via cellular. But when operational, mobile TV will need involvement from the operator for registration, billing, rights management and decryption. The reason is simple: broadcast has no return path. So the interactivity from user to broadcast provider has to go through the cellular channel or the operator.

And so yes, during the demo, we admit that mobile TV was fancy. This jibes with the results of a survey conducted by Goldmedia GmbH in July 2004, that show that 50 percent of potential users are willing to change their mobile service provider to get mobile TV if the current provider does not offer it. The survey also showed that almost 50 percent of prepaid customers would enter into a contract to gain access to mobile TV if the service were not made available via prepaid cards. The same survey showed that 77.8 percent of respondents regarded mobile TV as either a "good" or "excellent" idea, while only 7.6 percent totally disliked the idea.

In between snapshots and peeks into the latest news via mobile TV, the Filipino journalists were even calling each other up via videophone, again made possible by the 6680 via 3G. Videophones were stuff of sci-fi 20 years ago, and became used professionally by news broadcasters about 10 years ago. But at the Singapore demo the technology was brought down to the consumer level—not via satellite but via 3G using your cellular phone—and realized how close we are to getting there on a mass scale. There I was seeing and talking to Red Samar of the Bulletin, Many delos Reyes of Speed, Belle Alba of Gadgets and Agu Paiso of T3 using the cellular phone with a lag time of about half a second. It opens up new business opportunities for operators, new methods of communications for families in a global village and new ways for voyeurs and exhibitionists to get off. Multi-user videoconferencing, however, was not possible. Video calls remained a one-to-one correspondence.

LIVE videophone call from the author on a Nokia 6680

But the demo did not end there. In between launches of seven new Nokia cell phones like the 6280, the 6270, the 6111, the 6060, the 6265, the 2255 and the 2125, we tried out "moblogging" or "mobile blogging" with pictures. A "blog" is short for a "weblog," which is essentially an easy-to-update webpage containing a journal or a series of chronologically arranged posts that can be tracked. Using a Nokia 6680, we were able to capture high-resolution images via the 3G phone's 1.3-megapixel camera, add a text entry to the picture, and upload the same via cellular to update the Nokia Connection 2005 blog. By lunchtime of the first day the blog was opened, the page had bloated to a whopping 2.27 Mb, with a flurry of pictures and blog entries being posted by eager journalists.

This brought my depression level a notch further. Years ago when we were forming the INQ7.net website, we envisioned multimedia reporters who could send stories and photos on the fly. Back in 2000, we even had a blog-type application to update a particular page in chronological order and in real-time as the Estrada trial was happening. Today people call such a practice "blogging."

But using the 6680, the 3G connection and Nokia's Lifeblog app, we easily took snapshots of the day's events and interviews in Singapore while reporting and updating the blog in real-time—wirelessly and via mobile. And I thought to myself: This was what we've been talking about five years ago, for our reporters to be out on the field and taking snapshots and sending in bits of breaking news stories in real-time, untethered, unwired and unhampered.

But alas, reality shows a different face back in the Philippines. For mobile TV, videophones and heavy photo-centric moblogging to take place, we need a 3G infrastructure to carry the load. However, operators are still discussing the business case of 3G and are arguing that the Philippines is not yet ready for the technology. Meanwhile, the National Telecommunications Commission is dragging its feet about 3G licensing. Another public hearing on 3G is scheduled on July 1 at the NTC, and operators and government officials are expected to once again bicker about the use of 3G in the Philippines.

And that is why, despite the fleeting albeit wonderful peek at the future of multimedia and telecommunications at the Nokia Connection 2005 in Singapore, I went home depressed. Nokia has demonstrated that the technology is here, it is possible. Now we have to endure the long wait for the other pieces of the puzzle—the business side and the government regulatory side—to fall into place.

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19th PAC launched in black-and-white affair

THE 19TH Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC), to be held in Cebu City from Nov. 17 to 19, was officially launched at the Greenbelt 3 Park April 26. The succinct, entertaining, and jam-packed affair marked the launch of the congress theme and logo "Ready for the World!?" and provided a preview of what to expect in the biennial gathering of advertising practitioners.

A JAM-PACKED crowd of advertising people in black & white attires are asking Are We Ready for the World!?

The kick-off event, attended by Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña and representatives from various organizations under the Advertising Board of the Philippines, stood witness to many excitements.

"We are rolling out the red carpet as you land in Cebu City to attend the Ad Congress," Osmeña emphasized. This is the fourth time in the history of the ad congress that Cebu is hosting. The last congress was held in Camp Jon Hay, Baguio City.

'interrobang!?'

The official PAC logo, designed by Edgar Relayson, was revealed in a seamless interplay of lights and sounds. It was selected from a veritable harvest of entries from professional and amateur artists alike. Its opening exposure was quickly followed by the premier of the congress theme music, composed by "Pure Energy" Gary Valenciano, whose upbeat tempo lent tremendous firepower to the launch. The initial issue of interrobang!?, the official Ad Congress newsletter, was likewise distributed during the well-attended night.

The interrobang, a major visual peg of the congress, is an ambiguous overlap of two basic punctuation marks. It underscores the pervading doubt or (affirmation) of the state of Philippine advertising practice. The advertising luminaries who came in black or white challenged themselves and asked: Are we indeed ready or are we not ready for the world? Do we have what it takes to be counted among the best in the world? Or *pang*-local *lang tayo*? The discussion prompted Meryl Graham-Schlachterman to challenge the guests to participate in the upcoming congress, as she emphasized, "this is a forum that can help us prepare for the world."

3 panel discussions

Three panel discussions were mounted to really get into the heart of the matter. ABS-CBN public affairs TV hosts Ces Drilon and Cito Beltran moderated a panel of discussants to resolve three major issues: First, "are we ready for the pace of the world?"; second, "are we ready for the standards of the world?"; and third, "is the world ready for us?"

The live audience interviews were done by radio broadcasters Joe D' Mango and Rey Langit, while showbiz personalities/TV hosts Ryan Agoncillo and Bianca Gonzales made sure that the program sequence flowed smoothly playacting as floor directors of the whole proceeding. Noted theater director Freddie Santos provided overall direction.

Professionalism in advertising

The PAC is the first systematic industry-wide effort undertaken on a national scale to upgrade professionalism in advertising and ensure the continuing development of the industry.

The task of running this year's most-awaited industry function rests in the collective mind and heart of the executive committee of the 19th PAC, and is composed of Meryl Graham-Schlachterman (Vigrapost Inc), over-all chair; Raul Esteban (Philippine Survey and Research Center), vice chair; Alvin Manacsa (Artiste Retinue-Manila), chair of administrative committee; Melvin Mangada (TBWA-SMP), chair of creative committee; Evelyn Generoso (TNS Trends), Venus Navalta (McCann Erickson), chair of programs committee; Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (Philippine Daily Inquirer), chair of PR and publicity committee; Rita Nisperos (Globe Telecom), chair of ways and means committee; and Khalil Khodr Jr (Sell Co), chair of oversight committee.

The Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (Asap) and the Marketing & Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (Mores) play host organizations of this year's big advertising event.

THE 19TH PAC executive committee together with Secretary Cerge Remonde and AdBoard chair Raul Alvarez extend their hands of congratulations to Cebu City Mayor Tomas R. Osmeña for winning the bid to host the ad industry's biennial event.

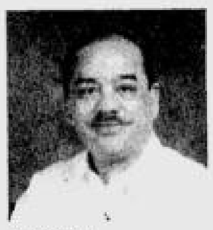
19TH PAC overall chair Meryl Graham-Schlachterman and creative committee Chair Melvin Mangada and Micky Domingo, ECD of McCann Erickson Philippines, hand over the prize money to Edgar Relayson, winner of this year's ad congress logo competition.

BITS & Clips

Ion 'detox' cleansing now here

PEOPLE suffering from arthritis, back and neck pain, muscle pain (fibromyalgia), gout and headaches, including migraine, can now find relief through Ion "detox" cleansing. Now available in the Philippines, the EBL Ion Cleanse Body Detox System is an advanced electronic detoxification system that provides a comfortable method of getting rid of toxins from the body without precipitating healing crises and reactions. The system is considered safe, effective, gentle to the body and convenient to use. For only 30 minutes, the machine can detoxify the whole body more quickly and thoroughly than any other system. The EBL Ion Cleanse is also effective in treating toxemia, edema, fibrositis, sprain, swelling, and whiplash. To know more about this system, the public is invited to free demos and seminars on the body detox system and have a chance to win a free detox treatment. Just bring this article and present to AIGS Marketing Corp, Unit 1408, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City on June 20 and 27 at 3 p.m.

PRC's outstanding professional


ESTANIEL

JIRO M. Estaniel, FPIID has recently been chosen by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) as the Outstanding Professional of 2005 in the field of interior design. Estaniel has been active in his profession, and is presently a fellow member and executive director of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID). He was also PIID's past president. PIID extends its congratulations to Estaniel.

Free VoIP for walk-ins

IN LINE with its free international calls or free VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), Mozcom offers another treat for walk-in clients at the different Mozcom outlets from June 20 to Aug. 20. Subscribers can avail themselves of free international calls for 15 minutes using Mozcom's VoIP phone facility at the Manila, Cebu, Davao and Baguio branches. The offer demonstrates to customers the benefits of its latest VAS (value-added service), the VoIP call. This feature is available in Mozcom's M-powered dial-up plans. Clients in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao and Baguio can enjoy 120 minutes of free VoIP calls to selected provinces. For more information, log on to www.mozcom.com or call 848-2606 or e-mail info@mozcom.com.

Philips road show in Cebu, Davao

PHILIPS Consumer Electronics, Europe's number one consumer electronics company, recently took its "Dare to Play" road show to the Queen City of the South June 6 to 12 at the Ayala Center Cebu. Philips "Dare to Play" aims to highlight the incomparable features of Philips DVD players, the "King of DVD," as it goes on an unprecedented one-on-one showdown of audio-video features against other DVD player brands in the market. Philips Dare to Play has previously held successful exhibits at top shopping malls in Metro Manila, and will also be at Gaisano Davao on June 20 up to June 26. The road show's final stop is from July 11 to 17 at the Festival Mall in Alabang.

San Beda High June meet

ALL SAN Beda High School Class '56 alumni are invited to the monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 21, at 7 p.m. at Club Filipino in Anapolis, Greenhills. This month's host is lawyer Sixto Brillantes. For more information, call Carlitos Barcelo at 0919-4910044/ 704-5603/734-8921.

Shop, dine 'til midnight

EASTWOOD City indulges its customers in perks and freebies with the "Shop and Dine 'til Midnight" promo. From June 20 to July 21, Mondays through Thursdays, Eastwood City goers have a reason to stick around until 12 midnight. A minimum of P500 single or accumulated purchase from any restaurant and store entitles customers to get perks and privileges from Eastwood City and participating stores. Eastwood City is a retail and dining center that combines Mediterranean-inspired architecture with the hip yet laidback vibe of downtown Miami. For more information on this midnight delight and other activities going on in Eastwood City, call Karen or Vanessa at 687-6770 to 74.

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'Feminine Washed': the bikini carwash, summer shindig

THE 'FEMININE Washed' girls at the Speedzone

ACTUALIZER Events Management, in cooperation with Manila Speedzone and Comfort Zone Café & Bar, held the event "Feminine Washed," a bikini carwash and summer shindig. Its location at the Manila Speedzone Complex, Fort Bonifacio Global City attracted many visitors.

The bikini carwash event with the "Feminine Washed" girls happened from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The party took over afterwards and featured acoustic bands such as "Art of Dona" and "Blush".

Special highlights of the event included a mini-car show, a karting tournament featuring the best drivers of participating car clubs and racing teams and awards for "chick magnet" cars. Guests were invited to tequila body shots with the "Feminine Washed" girls.

"Feminine Washed" was made possible with the help of Mobile Carwash, Options Unlimited/Starbright Bodykits, Auto Extreme, Tech & Tuner Magazine, Yehey.com and Aimogo Inc 5 Star-A Automotive Service Centre, which offers 50-percent discounts on all mechanical, electrical and air con works (labor only). It's at 61 Pasig Boulevard, C5 Road, Bagong Ilog and Mindanao near the corner of Congressional Avenue, Quezon City.

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Kamayan Restaurant - Alabang Town Center Alabang Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City	June 22 - June 23	10 AM - 6 PM
Metropolis Star Mall - 4th Level, Function Room E4 South Superhighway, Alabang Muntinlupa City	June 22 - June 23	10 AM - 6 PM

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BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

(In compliance with R.A. 7041)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I, Item No. OMBA-GIO1-90-1998; SG-26; Education: Master's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 5 years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analysis, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: 32 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility.

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I, Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-12-1998; SG-15; Education: Bachelor of Laws; Education: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: R.A. 1080 (BAR) or Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Six months of experience in conducting community work systems studies/ analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional.

DRIVER I, Item No. OMBA-DRV1-2-2002; SG-3; Education: Elementary School Graduate; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Driver License (MC11,s.96-Cat.II)

***GRAFT PREVENTION AND CONTROL OFFICER III;** Item No. OMBA-GPCO3-1-1998; SG-18; Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 2 years of relevant experience; Training: 8 hours of relevant training: Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility. *This is a republication of the vacancy published on January 20, 2005 at the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Previous applicants were already evaluated and processed. New applications will no longer be accepted.

Interested applicants should submit applications within twenty (20) working days from the date of this publication to the Administrative Division, at the above address, the following requirements pursuant to Office Order No. 49-05:

1. A letter stating the position applied for;
2. Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (Civil Service Commission Form 212);
3. "1x1" picture (colored);
4. Bar/Board rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5. Transcript of Records;
6. Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7. Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable);
8. Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9. Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

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National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref. No.: PB050401-RM0023 / PR No.: PPID-05-009479

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR HEAD OFFICE,** wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

Quantity	Item Description	PR NO.	Approved Budget
One (1) Lot	CONSTRUCTION AND ERECTION OF RF BUILDING AND SIXTY (60) METER MICROWAVE ANTENNA TOWER AT BATAAN THERMAL POWER PLANT	PPID-05-009479	P 8,279,336.00

1. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Documents will be available for issuance starting June 14, 2005 to June 28, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corp., Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Quezon Avenue, corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon presentation of original PCAB License Registration of at least "Category D" and "SMALL B" and a payment of non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND Pesos (P1,000.00) per set.
2. Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent, duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Documents shall be on or before June 29, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. Opening of the Eligibility Envelope shall be on June 30, 2005, 2:00 p.m. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted. ELIGIBLE bidders shall be notified on or before July 11, 2005.
3. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by ELIGIBLE bidders from July 12, 2005 to July 26, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND Pesos (P5,000.00).
4. Submission of Technical and Price Proposals of eligible bidders shall be at 10:00 a.m. on July 27, 2005 at National Transmission Corporation, Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. The technical proposal will be opened immediately in the presence of Bidder's representative who chooses to attend.
5. Pre-bid conference will be held on July 15, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
7. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
8. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - June 14 & 20, 2005)

ASSET DISPOSAL PROJECT
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"
FOR THE SALE OF NPC TUGBOAT NO. 2 & 3

DATE OF BIDDING: July 12, 2005

The National Power Corporation will receive sealed bids on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis for the assets described below:

ITEM DESCRIPTION		Min. Bid Price
LOT 1: One (1) unit Unused Tugboat, 3000 PS (Tugboat No. 3)		P31,335,000.00
Length (Overall, without rubber fender/sheat)	: 33.30 meter (approx.)	
Breadth (molded)	: 9.20 meter	
Depth (molded)	: 3.90 meter	
Designed Load Draught (molded)	: 2.90 meter	
Gross Tonnage (international)	: 310.00 tons	
Loading Capacity	: 80.00 tons (approx.)	
MAIN DIESEL ENGINES		
Make	: Mitsubishi	
No. of Units	: 2 units	
No. of Cylinder	: 6 cylinders	
Max. Continuous Output	: 1500 PS @ 1150 rpm	
Normal Output	: 1350 PS @ 1110 rpm	
Acquired	: 1998	
Location	: Naga, Cebu	
LOT 2: One (1) unit Tugboat (Tugboat No. 2)		P31,406,500.00
Length (Overall)	: 30.40 meters	
Beam (molded)	: 7.40 meters	
Draft Maximum	: 2.30 meters	
Gross Tonnage	: 180 tons	
Main Diesel Engine, 2 units	: Detroit 16V-92N 626 PS @ 1800 rpm	
Generator Engine, 2 Units	: Detroit, Type 4-71N 70KW @ 1800 rpm	
Rated Output	: 1,200 HP	
Manufacturer	: President Marine	
Date Manufactured	: 1994	
Location	: Naga, Cebu	

Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) at the Materials Management Department office, Ground Floor, Building No. 1, National Power Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives at 10:00 a.m. on July 12, 2005 at the NPC Solarium, NPC Head Office. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond (Cash or Manager's Check only) of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of bid. The Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation have concurred with the bidding process and clearance for the disposal was duly approved.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required informality, and to accept such bids that is most advantageous to the Government.

Issuance of bidding documents is on June 20, 2005 to July 6, 2005. A Pre-bid conference will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. on July 6, 2005 at the Pahiyas Room, NPC Solarium, NPC Head Office. Additional information may be obtained from Asset Disposal Project office at telephone nos. 922-3970, and 921-3541 loc. 5582, or e-mail us at *lcarabelo@napocor.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **LEVI C. ARABELO**
Chairman, Task Force for the Disposal of Tugboats 2 & 3

Note: This advertisement is also posted in our website: htpp://www.napocor.gov.ph
(PDI - June 20, 22 & 24, 2005)

Rice imports boost NFA buffer stocks

THE CONTINUOUS arrival of rice imports boosts the government's capability to meet the country's requirement for the basic staple especially in the coming lean production months. National Food Authority administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said the NFA is strategically positioning its rice stocks to facilitate dispersal to deficit areas especially with the onset of the rainy and typhoon season. Unloading the rice shipments nearest to end-users in typhoon prone regions also assure sufficient rice inventory and stable supply in these areas to forestall unwarranted rice price increases during the onset of natural calamities such as typhoons, landslides and flash floods, Tan explained. Tan identified NFA distribution strategies that will make available to consumers the government's good quality regular-milled rice at P16 per kg nationwide. These strategies include prioritizing distribution of NFA rice to the Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) that sell only NFA rice. BGP outlets inside major markets are not allowed to sell commercial rice. The NFA is also focusing on the sale of a higher quality well-milled rice at P18 per kg to accredited outlets especially inside major markets. Palay procurement and rice import arrivals have effectively contributed to the NFA's build-up of its present stock level of 602,900 metric tons (MT). The agency's rice stock accounts for about 30 percent of the national total, good to last for 69 days based on the average daily rice requirement of 29,000 MT. For more information on NFA programs, please send inquiries via Text NFA through mobile number 0917-6210927. For more information on programs of the Department of Agriculture, please visit the DA's official web site at www.da.gov.ph.

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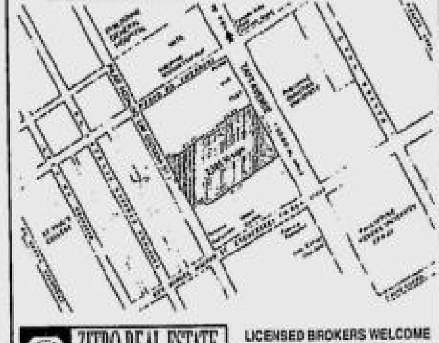

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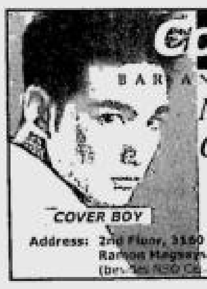

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BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
(In compliance with R.A. 7041)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I, Item No. OMBA-GIO1-90-1998; SG-26; Education: Master's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 5 years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analysis, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: 32 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility.

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I, Item No. OMBA-AGIO1-12-1998; SG-15; Education: Bachelor of Laws; Education: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: R.A. 1080 (BAR) or Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Six months of experience in conducting community work systems studies/ analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional.

DRIVER I, Item No. OMBA-DRV1-2-2002; SG-3; Education: Elementary School Graduate; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Driver License (MC11,s.96-Cat.II)

***GRAFT PREVENTION AND CONTROL OFFICER III;** Item No. OMBA-GPCO3-1-1998; SG-18; Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: 2 years of relevant experience; Training: 8 hours of relevant training: Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility. *This is a republication of the vacancy published on January 20, 2005 at the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Previous applicants were already evaluated and processed. New applications will no longer be accepted.

Interested applicants should submit applications within twenty (20) working days from the date of this publication to the Administrative Division, at the above address, the following requirements pursuant to Office Order No. 49-05:

1. A letter stating the position applied for;
2. Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (Civil Service Commission Form 212);
3. "1x1" picture (colored);
4. Bar/Board rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5. Transcript of Records;
6. Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7. Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable);
8. Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9. Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref. No.: PB050401-RM0023 / PR No.: PPID-05-009479

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR HEAD OFFICE**, wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

Quantity	Item Description	PR NO.	Approved Budget
One (1) Lot	CONSTRUCTION AND ERECTION OF RF BUILDING AND SIXTY (60) METER MICROWAVE ANTENNA TOWER AT BATAAN THERMAL POWER PLANT	PPID-05-009479	P 6,279,336.00

1. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Documents will be available for issuance starting June 14, 2005 to June 28, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the BAC Secretarial Office, National Transmission Corp., Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Quezon Avenue, corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon presentation of original PCAB License Registration of at least "Category D" and "SMALL B" and a payment of non-refundable fee of **ONE THOUSAND Pesos (P1,000.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent, duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Documents shall be on or before **June 29, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. Opening of the Eligibity Envelope shall be on June 30, 2005, 2:00 p.m. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted. ELIGIBLE bidders shall be notified on or before July 11, 2005.
3. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by ELIGIBLE bidders from July 12, 2005 to July 26, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE THOUSAND Pesos (P5,000.00)**.
4. Submission of Technical and Price Proposals of eligible bidders shall be at **10:00 a.m. on July 27, 2005** at National Transmission Corporation, Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. The technical proposal will be opened immediately in the presence of Bidder's representative who chooses to attend.
5. Pre-bid conference will be held on **July 15, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
7. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
8. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - June 14 & 20, 2005)

ASSET DISPOSAL PROJECT
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"
FOR THE SALE OF NPC TUGBOAT NO. 2 & 3

DATE OF BIDDING: July 12, 2005

The National Power Corporation will receive sealed bids on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis for the assets described below:

ITEM DESCRIPTION		Min. Bid Price
LOT 1: One (1) unit Unused Tugboat, 3000 PS (Tugboat No. 3)		P31,335,000.00
Length (Overall, without rubber fender/sheal)	: 33.30 meter (approx.)	
Breadth (molded)	9.20 meter	
Depth (molded)	3.90 meter	
Designed Load Draught (molded)	: 2.90 meter	
Gross Tonnage (international)	: 310.00 tons	
Loading Capacity	: 80.00 tons (approx.)	
MAIN DIESEL ENGINES		
Make	: Mitsubishi	
No. of Units	: 2 units	
No. of Cylinder	: 6 cylinders	
Max. Continuous Output	: 1500 PS @1150 rpm	
Normal Output	: 1350 PS @ 1110 rpm	
Acquired	: 1998	
Location	: Naga, Cebu	
LOT 2: One (1) unit Tugboat (Tugboat No. 2)		P31,406,500.00
Length (Overall)	30.40 meters	
Beam (molded)	7.40 meters	
Draft Maximum	2.30 meters	
Gross Tonnage	180 tons	
Main Diesel Engine, 2 units	: Detroit 16V-92N 626 PS @ 1800 rpm	
Generator Engine, 2 Units	: Detroit, Type 4-71N 70KW @ 1800 rpm	
Rated Output	: 1,200 HP	
Manufacturer	: President Marine	
Date Manufactured	1994	
Location	: Naga, Cebu	

Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00)** at the Materials Management Department office, Ground Floor, Building No. 1, National Power Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives at **10:00 a.m. on July 12, 2005** at the NPC Solarium, NPC Head Office. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond (Cash or Manager's Check only) of not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the total amount of bid. The Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation have concurred with the bidding process and clearance for the disposal was duly approved.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required informality, and to accept such bids that is most advantageous to the Government.

Issuance of bidding documents is on **June 20, 2005 to July 6, 2005**. A Pre-bid conference will be conducted at **2:00 p.m. on July 6, 2005** at the Pahiyas Room, NPC Solarium, NPC Head Office. Additional information may be obtained from Asset Disposal Project office at telephone nos. 922-3970, and 921-3541 loc. 5582, or e-mail us at *lcarabelo@napocor.gov.ph*.

(Sgd.) **LEVI C. ARABELO**
Chairman, Task Force for the Disposal of Tugboats 2 & 3

Note: This advertisement is also posted in our website: hipp://www.napocor.gov.ph
(PDI - June 20, 22 & 24, 2005)

Rice imports boost NFA buffer stocks

THE CONTINUOUS arrival of rice imports boosts the government's capability to meet the country's requirement for the basic staple especially in the coming lean production months. National Food Authority administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said the NFA is strategically positioning its rice stocks to facilitate dispersal to deficit areas especially with the onset of the rainy and typhoon season. Unloading the rice shipments nearest to end-users in typhoon prone regions also assure sufficient rice inventory and stable supply in these areas to forestall unwarranted rice price increases during the onset of natural calamities such as typhoons, landslides and flash floods, Tan explained. Tan identified NFA distribution strategies that will make available to consumers the government's good quality regular-milled rice at P16 per kg nationwide. These strategies include prioritizing distribution of NFA rice to the Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) that sell only NFA rice. BGP outlets inside major markets are not allowed to sell commercial rice. The NFA is also focusing on the sale of a higher quality well-milled rice at P18 per kg to accredited outlets especially inside major markets. Palay procurement and rice import arrivals have effectively contributed to the NFA's build-up of its present stock level of 602,900 metric tons (MT). The agency's rice stock accounts for about 30 percent of the national total, good to last for 69 days based on the average daily rice requirement of 29,000 MT. For more information on NFA programs, please send inquiries via Text NFA through mobile number 0917-6210927. For more information on programs of the Department of Agriculture, please visit the DA's official web site at www.da.gov.ph.

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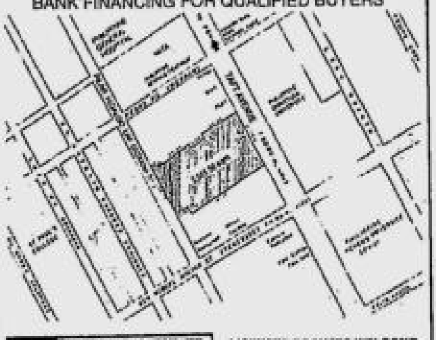

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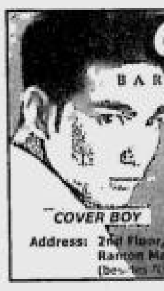

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

DR. CHARLES T. UY, M.D.

(June 12, 1928 – June 18, 2005)
UST College of Medicine Batch 1956

A loving and devoted husband to his wife, **HELEN**

Children : **CHARLENE, CATHERINE, CHRISTINE CHRISTOPHER** and **CHRISTIAN**

Brothers : **Dr. Henry T. Uy; Uy Ching Sui (†)** and **Uy Yek Chong**

Sisters : **Uy Chai Tin (†)**
Uy Siok Ha (†)
Uy Suy Min (†)
Uy Suy Peck
Uy Suy Pao
Norma Uy Kai
Elisa Uy Kai
Mary T. Uy

Brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces request prayers for his everlasting happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Grand Chapel I, Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road cor. C5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 23, 2005 at 11:00 AM at the Family Mausoleum of The Heritage Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The Directors, Officers and Staff of
PILIPINAS BRONZE, INC.
extend their deepest sympathies to the family of:

DR. CHARLES T. UY, M.D.

Founder and Chairman Emeritus
UST College of Medicine Batch 1956

who passed away on Saturday, June 18 at the age of 77.

His beloved wife, **HELEN** and children **CHRISTOPHER, CHARLENE, CATHERINE, CHRISTINE** and **CHRISTIAN** request prayers for his everlasting joy in the company of angels and saints.

His remains lie in state at the Grand Chapel I, Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Memorial Park, Bayani Road cor. C5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 23, 2005, 11:00 a.m. at the Family Mausoleum of The Heritage Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In Memory of Our Beloved

ALEJANDRO ROMAN BAUTISTA, SR.

"Tatay Andro"

who peacefully joined the Lord on June 19, 2005 at the age of 75.

In deep thanksgiving for the gift of his person and his life and with abiding faith that he now rests in God's embrace, his wife **KITAY**, his children **VANGIE** and **Tibbs**, **MANNIX** and **Susan**, **JOJO** and **Carol**, **BABY** and **Roland**, **LITA** and **Toniet**, **PINA** and **Gustie**, **FREDDIE** and **Angie**, and **GIGI** and **Bong**, together with his grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita de Cascia Church Mortuary, Philam Homes, Quezon City. Interment is on Wednesday, June 22, 2005 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Balintawak, Quezon City, after the 8:00 a.m. mass at Sta. Rita Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Barcelona-Bautista Foundation will be greatly appreciated.

In Loving Memory
on the 20th Death Anniversary of

Tan Go Su

on June 20, 2005

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at the following churches:

Immaculate Conception Parish
Basilica Minore, *Malolos City* .... 6:00 a.m.
Barasoin Church, *Malolos City* .... 6:00 a.m.
Saint Jude Catholic Church, *Manila* .... 6:00 a.m.
Saint Joseph Church, *Manila* .... 6:00 a.m.
Mary the Queen, *San Juan, Manila* .... 6:00 a.m.

We, the Family, who remembers him dearly request relatives, friends and the pious readers to join us in prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

We design OBITUARIES for free

Judge Ernesto A. Talamayan

(Ret. Executive RTC Judge)

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 18, 2005 at the age of 74.

His loving wife **Angelica**; children **Conrad & Evelyn, Nelson & Norma, Thelma & Jun, Edmund & Vivien, Tess, Rose & Noel, Chiles & Allan, Lynda & Raffy, Cielo & Hermie** and **Ernesto Jr.**; grandchildren, great grandchild and relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City to be transferred to Aurora, Isabela on June 21 for final interment on June 25, 2005.

4TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

MILA AJERO-FELIPE & son XAVIER

Who died June 21, 2001

Her loving husband, **Atty. Ramon A. Felipe IV**, and family request the pious reader to pray for their eternal repose.

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BUSINESS

Napocor seen to save up to ₱5.9B this year

State firm cuts use of diesel-run plants

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. has cut down its use of diesel power plants and is now expecting to save up to P5.9 billion.

Although fuel prices have been escalating in the world market, Napocor has gradually reduced power production from its diesel-fired plants and shifted to coal-fired, geothermal and hydroelectric power plants.

Based on a presentation made earlier in the year, Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said the state firm last year saved about P3.4 billion due to its continued implementation of economic load dispatching. This was almost four times the 2003 savings of P854 million.

Economic load dispatching simply means meeting power demand using available generating units at the least possible cost. This may also mean dispatching power from plants that use cheaper fuel at certain times of the day to cut down on operating costs.

Napocor's coal-fired power plants, as well as those of its independent power producers, have also started blending local coal with imported coal to fuel their generation facilities. This resulted in savings of P33 million.

According to Del Callar, the Mirant Corp. gets 20 percent of its coal volume from the local market to run its Sual plant. The bulk of the plant's coal requirements still comes from China.

He said that much cost-cutting had to be done to keep Napocor afloat. Fuel costs, in particular, had given Napocor a huge headache.

"2004 was the worst case for us, in terms of fuel costs," he said. "We have to continue all of these (cost-cutting measures)."

For this year, he said, further reductions in the use of diesel-fired plants would have to be made, particularly in the Luzon grid.

Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion, coming from a recent meeting with Del Callar, said reducing the use of diesel-run plants would not only result in cost savings for Napocor but also ease the impact of the 10-percent value-added tax on power rates.

The expanded VAT law, which will take effect on July 1, imposes a 10-percent VAT on the power sector. Prior to the enactment of law, the power sector was exempted from the VAT.

IMF airs concern over VAT cap on input tax credits

By Doris C. Dumlao

MEMBERS of an International Monetary Fund mission are concerned over a provision in the new value-added tax (VAT) law imposing a cap on input tax credits, which is seen to be inconsistent with international best practice.

Sources privy to ongoing discussions between the government and the IMF representatives said the mission from Washington appreciated the recent strides taken by Philippine officials to improve the country's fiscal standing.

The passage of the VAT law, for instance, is seen as the most significant piece of tax legislation in aid of the government's fiscal reform efforts.

One source said members of the visiting mission told Philippine officials to "keep up the good work." But they also cautioned Philippine economic managers not to become complacent, as the country is not out of the woods yet.

The mission came at a time when the country is in the grip of a fresh political upheaval triggered by allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo had rigged the last presidential elections and that her husband, eldest son and brother-in-law were involved in illegal gambling payoffs.

The source said the IMF, which has long been urging the legislation of an increase in the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent, was generally happy with the overall package recently signed into law, "except for one or two provisions."

The mission was referring to the cap on input tax credits—a provision likewise being criticized by private tax experts and businessmen.

The input tax is paid by a manufacturer for the importation and purchase of raw materials and services. This will be offset by the output tax imposed on the sale or lease of taxable goods, services or properties.

The input tax was originally meant to address the under-reporting of output VAT and the over-reporting of input VAT by non-compliant taxpayers.

The cap on input tax credits was originally pegged at 90 percent, which translated to a one-percent minimum VAT. But during the bicameral deliberation, the cap was lowered to 70 percent, which translated to a 3-percentage tax.

The IMF mission said that the cap on input taxes would cause distortions in tax payments.

Paul Cooper, a tax expert and director of PricewaterhouseCoopers, said a 3-percent minimum VAT would more likely hit sellers of goods than the sellers of services, as their proportion of taxable inputs was lower.

Cooper said no VAT would be paid when using labor, but there would be VAT on the purchase of goods.

"Consequently, there will be a bias toward consuming services over goods," Cooper said. "Businesses may have to obtain goods from the informal (and potentially tax-evading) sector as there will be no input tax paid for the purchase—in other words, the bill may actively encourage less tax-compliant behavior."

As a result, Cooper said, "business structures may change."

"Expect buy-sell distributors to convert into commission agents," as this reduces the risk that they will need to pay more than should be paid under a VAT system to cover, the 3 percent minimum VAT," he added. "Tax professionals will also have a field day."

The IMF's third highest official earlier said that the recent passage of the VAT measure would help the Philippines reduce its fiscal vulnerabilities.

Agustin Carstens, the IMF's deputy managing director who was briefly in town for a capital market forum, said that the government must also focus on improvements in tax administration.

Based on the government's estimates, the VAT reform could raise anywhere from P28 billion to P31 billion this year, and P97 billion to P105 billion next year, creating room in the government's budget to increase spending for infrastructure, social services and education.

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino
BUSINESS Monday

Arming for success

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

THE POPE MOBILE

HE built the famous "Pope Mobile" that carried the late Pope John Paul II when he visited the country for the second and last time in January 1995.

He also provided the bulletproof sport utility vehicle for the use of Microsoft chair Bill Gates during a brief visit in 1998.

But going high profile and providing services to such great names were farthest from the mind of then 34-year-old Edison Cham when he put up CTK Inc. in 1992.

His goal was simple when Cham got into the vehicle armoring business.

That was to serve private vehicle owners who wanted their units bullet-proofed for protection, and there were not so many of them then.

Before going into the business himself, Cham was an importer and supplier of materials for builders of armored vehicles. With some of the materials he had, he tried his hand at bullet-proofing a Pajero, which turned out to be tough enough to withstand M-16 rifle bullets.

A prospective client heard about it and had the unit tested. With the prospective client satisfied, Cham made his first sale, and the business of packaging, designing and building armored vehicles took off.

Now, the company that started as a single-purpose business unit has grown into a group of seven companies called CTK Integrated Security Group, that not only builds and sells armored vehicles but also provides integrated armored transport and security services.

It now has a workforce of 1,600, providing support to its now nationwide operations.

But all these did not happen overnight.

Slowly but surely

Cham took things a step at a time. He initially used US technology in building armored cars and, in the first few years of its operations, CTK was making armored vehicles in partnership with Francisco Motors, which supplied the engines and chassis for the vehicles. (It was also Francisco Motors that supplied the engine used for the "Pope Mobile.")

Later, Cham, assisted by his brothers, was able to develop his own technology and CTK's line expanded from private cars to a wide array of vehicles that now include armored vans for banks and special vehicles for certain units of the military.

CTK's growth was steady. Three years after starting the business, the company was able to capture about 70 percent of the market for armored vehicles, surpassing even those that came before it. The armored vans for banks accounted for the bulk of his business.

As orders grew, the company decided to move its production operations from a Quezon City compound to a bigger property in Balagtas, Bulacan, which it took over from Manila Motor Works.

Diversification

As he got deeper into the business, Cham came to learn about the other security requirements of his clients. He realized that there were clients that needed armored vehicles but did not want to buy and maintain their own units. There were also those who needed not only the vehicles, but also other allied services. This realization prompted him to go into these allied services, one after the other, to meet the demands of his clients.

In 1995, Leasemaster Transport Corp. came into being. It is engaged in the business of leasing armored vehicles.

Starting out with two units, Leasemaster now has about 400 vehicles for lease and almost the same number of administrative, operational and technical personnel. It caters mainly to banks and its coverage is now nationwide.

But before it grew that big, the

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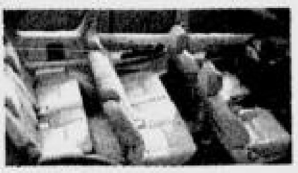

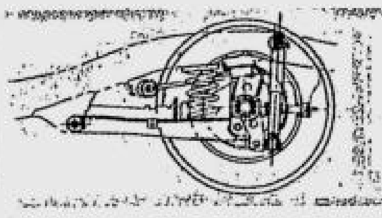

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He has worked with four of the world's top five agency groups, founded five agencies, and currently chairs four - The Drayton Bird Partnership, Bill Fryer Direct, DBCM (Malaysia) and Brandscape.

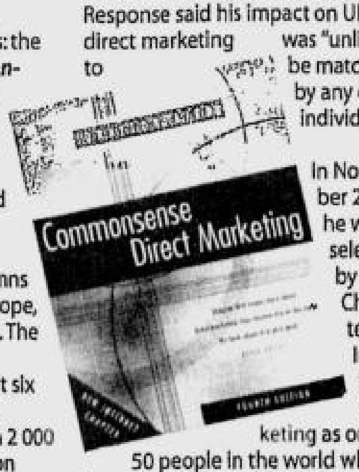
He was Vice Chairman and Creative Director Worldwide of Ogilvy & Mather Direct and a Board Member of The Ogilvy Group.

Drayton has worked in 39 countries with many famous names. They include Mercedes-Benz, Toyota, American Express, British Telecom, Xerox, The British Tourist Authority, IBM, Microsoft, The Reader's Digest, Hewlett-Packard, Lloyd's Bank, NatWest, Wegener, Samlarhuset, Ford, Visa, McKinsey & Partners, Unilever, A. T. Kearney, Price Waterhouse, Cap Gemini Consulting, Procter & Gamble, Nestle, and British Airways.

He is the author of three books: the standard text, entitled ***Commonsense Direct Marketing, How to Write Sales Letters that Sell, and Marketing Insights and Outrages,*** which have between them been translated into 12 languages.

He has written over 1,000 columns for marketing magazines in Europe, Australia, India, the US and Asia. The Institute of Direct Marketing nominated him one of their first six Honorary Fellows in 1995, and Educator of the Year in 1997. In 2 000 the Direct Marketing Association placed him on their Roll of Honour.

Campaign magazine named him one of the 50 most important individuals in UK advertising during the past 25 years - "the only universally acknowledged point of creativity in the direct marketing world."Direct Response said his impact on UK direct marketing was "unlikely to be matched by any other individual".



In November 2003 he was selected by the Chartered Institute of Marketing as one of 50 people in the world who have shaped the future of marketing, and Precision Marketing readers named him the leading personality in Direct Marketing over the last 15 years.

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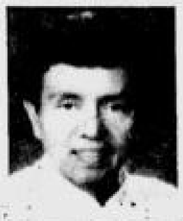
'Erap was not so bad!'

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Manuel A. Alcuaz Jr.



I WAS one of the millions who went to Edsa II and made it possible for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to become President.

It has been more than three years since we went to Edsa and got rid of Erap.

If I remember right, the issue was not about intelligence, height, or gender. It was about gambling, "jueteng" payoffs and honesty.

One would expect that President Macapagal-Arroyo would have taken the people's desire for change into consideration and would have made the eradication of illegal gambling, and jueteng in particular, part of her first term's agenda.

One would have also expected that the eradication of corruption should have been part of her agenda.

Apparently, our message that brought GMA to the presidency was not heard.

What has the President done?

'Jueteng'

If Archbishop Oscar Cruz had not raised awareness about the proliferation of jueteng in the country, would the President have bothered to declare all-out war on jueteng?

Would the PNP have pretended to take action?

The following appeared on the front page of the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Saturday, May 28th:

"And then there was none. The whole of Luzon" is now "jueteng" free, and Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao is thanking everyone for it."

"Lomibao yesterday met with the fact-finding panel of the Department of Justice and said operations of the illegal numbers game had been stopped not only in five regions but throughout Luzon."

"Told that certain quarters had doubted the PNP's ability to accomplish the task in so short a time, Lomibao replied: "Well, everybody cooperated. Everybody [worked] in unison ... No one is betting, nobody is collecting. We have to thank everybody for their cooperation."

I was going to say: "Now we have PNP chief Lomibao who has eradicated jueteng in barely a week! Should we give him a medal for getting everyone to cooperate?

This magic performance raises serious questions.

If getting rid of jueteng was such an easy task, why was it not done three years ago? Why did it take Archbishop Oscar Cruz and the media to make the President, PNP, and local government finally take action?"

Did government and the PNP have blinders that prevented them from seeing illegal activities that were taking place?

A few days afterward, Lomibao was singing a different song. He was then claiming that he did not have enough resources to fight jueteng.

We cannot blame the public if it now suspects that local government, the PNP, and the highest levels of government were getting millions from jueteng lords.

Lomibao's statement, "We have to thank everybody for cooperating" makes it appear that he has the ability to persuade the jueteng industry to cooperate.

In the Senate hearing, witnesses have come out and categorically accused presidential relatives of taking jueteng money.

The suspicion that the PNP, local government, and presidential relatives were making money was reinforced by government's sins of commission and omission.

The secretary of justice seems more interested in scaring potential witnesses than in digging for the truth.

In the all-out war against jueteng, how many have been arrested and charged? No photo opportunities for Gloria?

Election fraud

In 1998, Erap was elected with a huge majority. Did he use government money to get elected?

Did he cheat in the counting and canvassing?

Since Erap was not in power, he was in no position to use government funds or to cheat massively.

In the May 2004 election, we have seen massive use of government money for GMA's reelection bid.

Money intended for fertilizer to help farmers produce rice more was freely distributed in cities and urban municipalities.

Then Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo delegated these apparently dubious disbursements to his undersecretary, a prominent Rotarian who must have applied the 5th Way test "Does it benefit me and my friends?"

The final blow is the taped conversation apparently between the President and Commissioner Garcillano.

The President had been informed that Garcillano had a history of "dagdag bawas" and she persisted in appointing him. Now we can see why?

Proliferation of corruption

The President prides herself in fiscal prudence and good governance because she pushed for the VAT increase!

If she had eradicated corruption in government and collected from tax evaders, then she would not have to burden those who pay taxes.

Unfortunately, her administration has been tarnished by huge anomalies, such as:

1. The Diosdado Macapagal Highway
2. What looks like an attempt to extort on the Piatco deal
3. The Department of Agriculture fertilizer fund diversion
4. The attempted P8.4 billion use of coconut levy funds
5. The apparent involvement of the first family and PNP in jueteng
6. The Comelec more than P2-billion fiasco

Dirty politics

The President is accusing her opponents of dirty politics, such as wire-tapping.

But which is the mortal sin, cheating or attempting to cheat in the presidential elections or wire-tapping?

What about selecting a vice president for his vote-getting ability with no apparent capability to govern? Secretary Bunye has not even mentioned him as a possible successor.

That is really cunning politics getting a VP that no one would want as president.

She goes to Mass every day, even talks with the Lord. She claims that "the Lord put her here".

But she did not say a word while Mike and Iggy Arroyo allegedly committed perjury before the Senate when they claimed that Jose Pidal was Iggy Arroyo.

In a television interview with Max Soliven, GMA said that the Jose Pidal money was not government money, not graft money. The P200 million plus were campaign contributions given to her.

I will not ask whether these were included in her statement of assets and liabilities. I will not ask if there are tax implications.

I will only ask: "Oh Lord, why did You put her there?"

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is co-chair of the MAP ICT committee and president of Systems Sciences Consult Inc. Feedback at map@globenet.com.ph)

Globe bags int'l awards

GLOBE G-Cash, the mobile commerce service from Globe Telecom, was awarded The "Most Innovative Mobile Operator Service" at the Asian MobileNews Awards in Singapore, and "Best M-Commerce Application or Service" at the Global Messaging Awards in London.

Asian MobileNews is a Singapore-based publication enjoying international readership.

Its annual awards recognize outstanding performance by Asian telco operators, services and mobile phones, with winners determined through votes cast by readers.

Global Messaging Awards is a prestigious body based in London.

These awards closely follow the GSM Association's (GSMA) award for "Best Mobile Messaging Service," which was awarded last February in Cannes, France.

G-Cash "Most Innovative Mobile Operator Service" and "Best M-Commerce Application or Service" awards were based on the service's contribution to expanding telco borders and its laying the foundation for mass adoption of mobile commerce.

In receiving the Asia Mobile News Award for "Most Innovative Mobile Operator Service," Andrew Buay, chief operating advisor of Globe Telecom, said: "Globe Telecom is extremely excited and passionate about the potential of G-Cash. It is being deployed in ways we never dreamed of when it was first launched ...We are confident that it will not only change, but importantly, will enhance the way people live and the way businesses will be run in the future."

A leader's way

From page B2-4

skills to the benefit of everyone around you.

In my book, "There's No Such Thing as Business Ethics," I wrote, "There are really only two important points when it comes to ethics. The first is a standard to follow. The second is the will to follow it."

That's always the tension. That's always the issue. There are two aspects to ethics.

The first involves the ability to discern right from wrong, good from evil, and propriety from impropriety. And the second involves the commitment to do what is right, good and proper.

As I often say, we must lead ourselves before we lead others. Are there areas of your leadership that have been tarnished by your tending to the tip of the iceberg and neglecting the portion that is below the water?

When a self-disciplined, emotionally secure leader has a healthy sense of identity and operates under a good set of core values—in other words, when the unseen portion of his leadership is on solid ground—he is well positioned to avoid leadership catastrophes of Titanic proportions, as well as to weather the typical storms that often arise on the high seas of leading. *(For comments or information on Maxwell's leadership workshops in the Philippines, e-mail us at maxwell@inspire.ph.)*

MICROSOFT'S Bill Gates before boarding CDK's custom-armored Nissan Patrol, which he used while on a business trip here

Arming for success

From page B2-1

company had been dependent on other agencies for security personnel to man the armored vehicles in the field, which had not been always reliable.

The leasing company's growing need for security personnel it could call its own led to the establishment of Mandarin Security Services in 1997. Mandarin Security now has more than 900 trained security personnel to meet the growing needs not only of Leasemaster but also of the other CTK subsidiaries that were later put up, including Cash Tech Systems and Speed Master Unlimited.

Innovations

To further ensure the protection of its clients, the CTK Group introduced various security innovations such as the installation of vehicle tracking devices and its Central Alarm Monitoring Station.

With these systems, CTK and its clients are able to monitor the whereabouts of the leased vehicles in the field. It is also now offering cash technology and cash-in-transit management.

Its armored vehicles are now equipped with built-in vaults designed to handle not only cash but also highly sensitive and valuable goods for export, such as computer chips. Exporters tap CTK vans to transport these goods from their production areas to the airport.

As demand continued to grow, the group added to its fold in the early 2000s Total Security Services, Royal Mandarin Security Services and the Armored Transport Inc. to beef up its pool of security personnel and fleet of armored vehicles for lease.

Big leap forward

Equipped with all the technology and manpower support he needs, and having already built a reputation of being a reliable provider of quality armored vehicles, Cham is now set to venture into another field, exporting.

The CTK group just became the first local company to export armored vehicles. But just like when he was starting, Cham is entering the big playing field modestly.

It was Bhutan, a small country in the middle of China and India, that gave Cham his first taste of the export business. He did not even seek out for this opportunity, it just came.

The importers from Bhutan came to know about CTK through the Internet. They came to inspect the armored vans and ordered four units, the first one was shipped last April.

This may not be a big transaction to many but the export to Bhutan opened the eyes of Cham to the many possibilities outside the Philippine market.

He is, in fact, training his sights on neighboring Asian countries, China and Indonesia, as possible export markets.

Cham is confident CTK is ready to go into exporting.

"We have the facilities and all we need to support an export venture. Our plant can produce 20 units at any given time because our assembly process is modular," he says.

But before he can go full blast into exportation, Cham knew he still has things to do to fully prepare him for the highly competitive environment outside.

"First, we have to get our technology and design patented and second, we need to get an ISO certification. We are already working on these," he says.

While working its way to the exporting business, the CTK Group is continuing with its expansion and diversification to meet the ever growing requirements of its clients.

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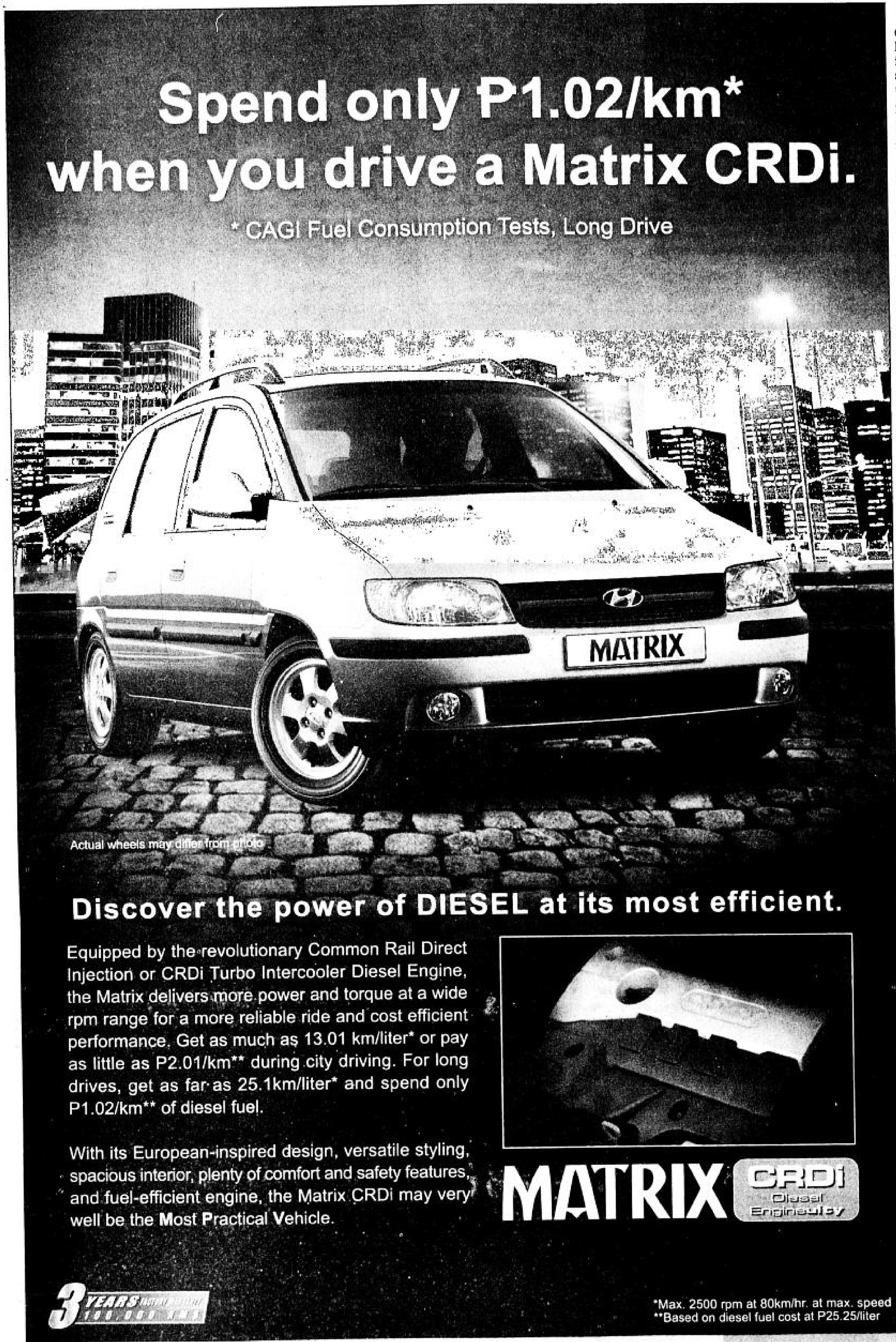
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ON April 14, 1912, a luxury ocean liner on its maiden voyage struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic and sank within hours, sending some 1,500 people to cold, watery graves.

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

The Titanic tragedy has been memorialized and analyzed in movies, books and historical exhibits.

As anyone who saw James Cameron's 1997 blockbuster movie about this event can attest, the story is full of great human drama.

From a leadership perspective, however, what really interests me is the iceberg.

Visible tip

About 10 percent of an iceberg is above the surface of the ocean, while the remaining 90 percent lies beneath the water.

The lookouts on the Titanic spotted the visible part of the iceberg just in time to avoid it, but at that point, there was nothing they could do to avoid the huge mass of ice that rested under the surface.

On impact, the double-bottomed hull of the great ship ruptured, sinking a vessel that had previously been considered unsinkable.

This brings me to an intriguing comparison between an iceberg and a person's leadership.

The visible 10 percent (the "tip of the iceberg," if you will) represents leadership skill—the practices, attitudes and behaviors that people see on a daily basis. The other 90 percent represents leadership character—those defining qualities that make us who we are but can't be seen from the outside.

Unseen elements

Author Tim Elmore says that much of our influence as leaders flows from four unseen elements that make up our character.

They are:

1. Self discipline. Simply stated, this is the ability to do what's right even if you don't feel like it. The most successful people I know have gotten where they are because they are extremely self-disciplined.

They don't need other people cheering them on every step of the way—they perform well because they've trained themselves to do so.

2. Core values. These are the principles that enable us to take a moral stand—to do the right thing, regardless of the circumstances. Our core values influence our behavior. They guide how we act on a personal level as well as within our larger organizational framework.

3. A sense of identity. This involves having a healthy image of who we are. It's the ability to be comfortable in our own shoes.

4. Emotional security. This includes the capacity to be emotionally stable and consistent.

The bad news about icebergs—as the folks on the Titanic unfortunately discovered—is that it's what's below the surface that sinks the ship.

Weak leadership

The same is true when it comes to leadership.

When our character is weak—when we are in any way lacking in self-discipline, core values, a strong sense of identity and emotional security—it will eventually hurt our capacity to lead.

This is exactly what happened to Charles Colson, an aide to President Richard Nixon who spent seven months in prison for his role in the Watergate scandal.

In a 2003 speech at Brown University, Colson talked about what happens when a tremendously talented individual in a highly responsible leadership position lacks a moral and ethical foundation.

He said he ended up in prison—not because he lacked intelligence, connectedness or giftedness—but because his character—the 90 percent of his leadership that lay under the surface—was not what it should have been.

On the other hand, the good news about icebergs is that it's what's below the surface that supports the tip of the iceberg. In the same way, a sound, ethical character will hold you up as you use your visible leadership

A LEADER'S WAY/ B2-2

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LIFESTYLE

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSD… …SHION & BEAUTY

THE RADIANT KC Concepcion plays Belle in "Beauty and the Beast," ongoing at the Meralco Theater.

Frilly and frothy, but not fizzy enough

By Gibbs Cadiz

In Atlantis Productions' 'Beauty and the Beast,' KC Concepcion is a ravishing Belle, but not yet an actress

PERHAPS the ultimate accolade for Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" was made by the powerful theater critic Frank Rich of the New York Times, who wrote in 1991, "What is the best Broadway musical comedy score of the year? Make no mistake about it, it is 'Beauty and the Beast.'"

Such high praise was all the more notable for the fact that Rich wasn't talking about the Broadway version that came a year later, but the animated film itself. That movie, with a gorgeous score by composer Alan Menken and lyricist Howard Ashman (of the Off-Broadway classic "Little Shop of Horrors") went on to become the first animated feature to be nominated for a Best Picture Oscar. It also spawned a monster hit in the title song (sang, fittingly enough, by a Broadway legend, Angela Lansbury as Mrs. Potts), and made superstars of talking candelabras and table clocks.

When "Beauty and the Beast" finally migrated to the stage and opened on Broadway in 1992, it grabbed 11 Tony nominations and became a huge attraction. Together with the even more triumphant staging of "The Lion King" under Julie Taymor's direction, Disney acquired the beachhead to launch a revival of much of New York's theater district with its unprecedented back-to-back film-to-stage successes.

Detractors

Yet Broadway's "Disneyfication" has had its share of loud detractors, many of them small producers who feared that the Big Mouse, already a behe-

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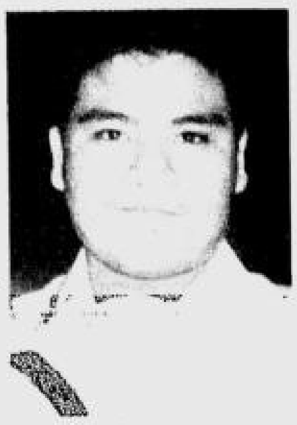

OLIVER Salonga

VICTOR Michael Coo

First-rate concert on a shoestring budget

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

WHAT went on behind the scene of a concert Odette Alcantara described as an event that "uncovered a Filipino Yo-Yo Ma" and produced an equally young Liszt soloist received a prolonged ovation?

The June 12 concert featuring cellist Victor Michael Coo and pianist Oliver Salonga with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under conductor Rodel Colmenar was probably the only redeeming Independence Day event, eclipsing for more than two hours the Gloria-gate and *jueteng* scandals.

Former Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz Araneta said, after the concert of first-rate talents, this country had hope. Award-winning actors Ronnie Lazaro and Pen Medina were so carried away, they talked about Coo and Rostropovich at Casa Armas until 3 a.m.

Filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya was in tears after the concert, hugging Salonga and Coo as though they were her own sons. Journalist Jullie Yap-Daza said the performance by the young artists did the country proud, while music lover and musician Tita de Quiros, wife of columnist Conrad, said Coo's performance just made the cellist the new "idol *ng bayan*."

So what went on backstage beyond the accolades?

The constant fear of Salonga's mother, Aleli, was memory lapses.

The cellist was having a major orchestral debut in Manila without his parents and his musician-brother and sister. After the last rehearsal, I told him to prepare an encore but he said the Dvorak concerto was already too long and an encore was out of the question.

But when the orchestra members gave him an ovation after the last rehearsal, I said, "Loni [his nickname], I think you have to prepare for an encore. In this country, no matter how long a concerto is, it is almost impolite not to give an encore. So if you can be ready with one."

As it turned out, the thunderous applause for his unaccompanied Bach Prelude shook the theater. The poor cellist, after several curtain calls, simply had to beg off. But he was stunned by the audience's wild reaction (Medina let out a loud 'Yo!').

All-around gofer

Coming up with the idea of two brilliant soloists in one evening without a single cent and a single major sponsor, you ended up, aside from being impresario, as ticket seller, ad solicitor, cash-and-check collector aboard a *trisikad*, delivering tickets for the Caritas brothers in Pandacan.

On the night of the concert, realizing you could not afford to pay ushers, you became chief usher escorting concert-goers to their seats.

When the concert ended and the euphoria died down, it was time for another reality check.

Would ticket sales be able to cover the full payment for the orchestra? Would there be enough for artists' honoraria, printing bills, etc.? Would you have to swallow your pride and ask the National Commission for Culture and the Arts for a handout?

I told Oliver's mother: We were not in the concert for money. Offering food for the spirit, like music, was the main mission rather than making the event a business enterprise.

But a few things do matter.

First, you have to give young people an alternative to the sound of television they hear every day. You have to tell people we have young talents worthy of support. And you have to show them there was more to music than an all-nighter in a karaoke bar.

What was gratifying about that concert was that young people in the audience found two new role models outside "Starstruck" and "Star in a Million."

Solo recital

Coo will have a solo recital at the Baguio Country Club Ballroom in Baguio City at 7 p.m., on June 24.

Meanwhile, another labor of love is the much-awaited homecoming concert of tenor Otoniel Gonzaga with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra on July 26 under the baton of Colmenar. Gonzaga is the first and, so far, last Filipino tenor to sing the Verdi opera "Otello." His singing style was admired by no less than the late Rodulf Serkin and the still unsinkable Placido Domingo.

Gonzaga was Domingo's choice as his understudy in the new opera season of the Kennedy Center opposite Mirella Freni.

For inquiries on tickets for the Baguio and Manila concerts, call 9017156 or 0910-8851136.

Theater in the raw

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE BAY of Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro has been adjudged among the 10 most beautiful in the world. With the coming of dusk, the lights are switched on in White Beach, nervous with bars, bistros and resorts. And the night life here rivals that of Boracay.

Along adjacent Aninuan, however, the beach scene is quieter. There's a spillover of resorts, open-air restos, picnic tables near the shore, and families and couples swimming.

"Be careful of the undertow (*agos sa ilalim*)," warns a mother.

A banana boat streaks by at top speed, amidst the delighted screams of the passengers.

Just walk away from the shore a few paces and you will come upon a forested area. These restful surroundings, with an uphill incline, are the home base of the Stairway Foundation, Inc. (stairway@stairwayfoundation.org), which promotes and upholds children's rights, campaigns against the sexual abuse of children, and assists abused and disadvantaged children in living normal lives.

"The streetchildren are from Manila and they are brought here," says Lars Jorgensen of Copenhagen, Denmark, Stairway director. (The foundation is assisted by Danish, German and Canadian agencies.)

"We have our school here, two teachers, a psychologist and three social workers," he adds.

There are therapeutic murals by visual artist-in-residence Tonio Ramos, pyramid-shaped cottages as well as an open-air stage for plays, for theater is an important component of Stairway's advocacy.

The resident playwright-director is Monica Ray of Washington, DC.

"I've always had a passion for literature and the arts," she says. "And our idea here at Stairway is to bring out, to create awareness of, important social issues through the arts. Our theater is a tool for rehabilitation and recovery."

PLAYWRIGHT-DIRECTOR Monica Ray

RODELYN Dejino as Ellen, molested by an uncle

JHAO Pocholo Gutierrez as the face of hunger (and anger)

SUSAN Serafico as Aira, held captive in a brothel

YSAGGANI Ybarra as the offender

THE cast of "Cracked Mirrors," written and directed by Monica Ray

Play on street kids

A case in point is Ray's recent musical play about streetchildren, "Goldtooth," which was performed on the international stage, including the United Nations Palais in Geneva, Switzerland.

It is the story of a boy with a gold tooth, named Karate, who sells drugs, entraps children and prostitutes them. But he gets his comeuppance at the end when a cockroach steps on him!

Ray wrote the libretto, and the music was by Rolly Maligad of Cocojam, the popular reggae group which first became known for its performance at Mayrics Folkhouse in front of University of Santo Tomas.

The latest play by Ray for Stairway is the somber "Cracked Mirrors," which brings together stories of child sexual abuse in a one-hour presentation. This was staged recently at Puerto Galera for our benefit, and also for the street educators who work with the foundation.

The competent performers are members of the foundation ensemble called T.a.s.k. (Talented, Ambitious Street Kids), mostly youths and adolescents who at one time were disadvantaged streetchildren. Most of them have had experience in theater, and were further trained by Ray and artist-in-residence Ysaganni Ybarra.

"Cracked Mirrors" is a series of monologues as, one by one, the abused youth narrates his/her experience. Aira (Susan Serafico) is held captive in a brothel. A hunk (Jhonny) is befriended and abused by a pedophile. Ellen (Rodelyn Dejino) is molested by an uncle. Jhao (Pocholo Gutierrez), a hungry streetchild, tries to attract the attention of diners at a restaurant.

Hanging like a sinister thread over the production is The Offender (Ybarra), who tries to rationalize his misdeeds by explaining he, too, was abused as a child.

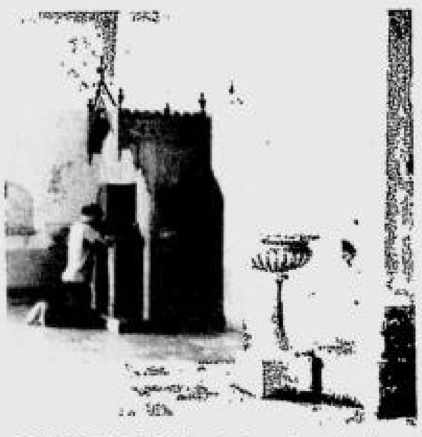
A lively open forum took place at the end, as the street educators reacted to the play.

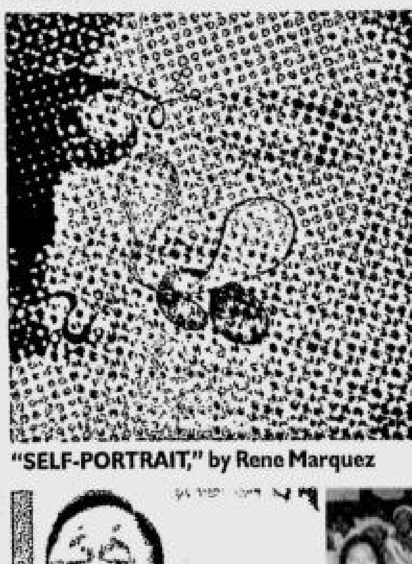
"Cracked Mirrors" is a riveting theater experience. The foundation plans to bring the play to Metro Manila campuses this schoolyear.

"We use this form of theater because it appeals to young people and encourages them to work together as a group," says Ray. "One way of entertaining is through the arts—these are cathartic, expressive, and deal with social issues often hidden away."

Exhibit marks 400 years of San Agustin; Serrano and Villanueva at West; Lindslee at CCP

VISUAL ARTS


CONFESSIONAL box in San Agustin circa 1950-1960


"SELF-PORTRAIT," by Rene Marquez

THE SAN Agustin Museum will open an exhibit, "Sailors, Monks and Church Builders," on June 22 to mark the 400th anniversary of the construction of San Agustin Church and Monastery in Manila. The exhibit assembles rare photos and documents to remember the thousands of missionaries who risked life and limb to cross the sea from Sevilla to Veracruz and from Acapulco to Manila to evangelize the Philippines. Call 5274060/ 61/ 5266794.

WEST Gallery presents "This Side Up" on June 21-July 9 at Mary Santos Artcade, 48 West Ave., QC. Jojo Serrano paints in his usual large-scale impasto treatment of oil pigment. Cris Villanueva wraps his paintings with handpainted bubble wrap. Alvin Villaruel presents abstract photographs. Call 4110336/ 4119221.

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines presents the changing face of abstractionist Lindslee in "Face: Phase" on June 23-July 31 at Pasilio Guillermo Tolentino. The show presents a two-faced installation of paintings, one of which highlights the artist's typical handling of materials and images. The other shows his experiments with colors and techniques. Call 8323702.

RENE Marquez has always explored themes that can be traced back to his Filipino roots. On June 23-July 6, Marquez will continue to highlight such treasured heritage in "Portraits," his latest show at West Gallery in SM Megamall. Call 6341284.

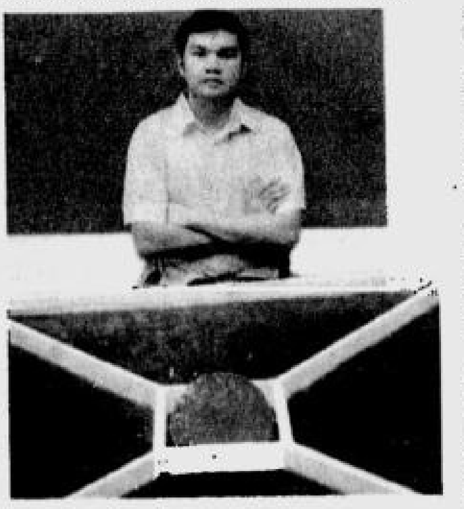
GALLERY 139 features Karen Concepcion's "The Things I See" until June 29 at 3/L, Glorietta 4, Makati. Horses, flowers, children and *koi* are shown in this exhibit of oils. Call 7289724.

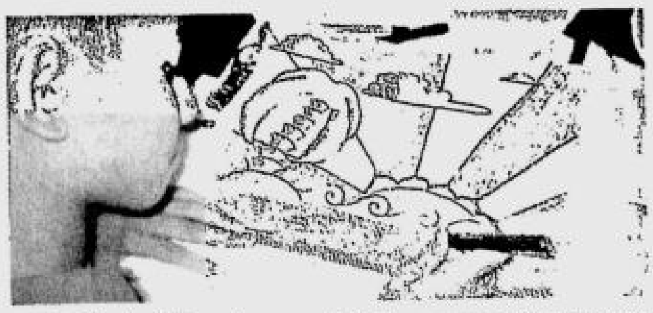
"THE WEIGHING of Light" at Finale Art File (LaO Centre, Pasay Road cor. Makati Ave., Makati), until June 30, showcases Geraldine Javier's five large-scale oil paintings. The title refers to several issues like difficulty in gauging emotions, quantifying significance in things and the use of black and white or monochrome palettes.

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines showcases "Sining Pinoy sa Isip, Puso at Diwa" at its head office in Makati until June 30. The exhibit highlights the uniqueness of Filipino artistry through the paintings of Nemiranda and members of the Angono Art Circle. Call 8936743.

"HOMAGE to Ang Kiukok" is on view until Aug. 26 at The Museum of De La Salle University-Manila. The exhibit showcases 50 paintings from the personal collection of Ang's family as well as from the Will and Doreen Art Collection. Call 5244611.

HOUSE Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. (left) assures artists and cultural workers that Congress will support a Debt-for-Culture Swap program to fund Philippine arts and culture, and a Magna Carta for Artists that will uphold their rights and privileges—both advocated by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.


"FACÉ: Phase" by Lindslee


DIWA Scholastic Press Inc. recently held a summer art camp at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Manila. Around 40 students from different schools participated, including Jomari Emmanuel Alovera of Elizabeth Seton School in Las Piñas.

SCHOOL children and artists from 17 cities and municipalities, together with artists from Kalahi Cultural Care-giving Program, recently trooped to the WOW Philippines grounds in Intramuros, Manila, to start the longest mural on canvas painting. The painting was part of the 107th Independence Day celebration.

AYALA Museum presents "Multiple Originals, Original Multiples," an exhibition of 19th-century images of Philippine costumes, until July 10. Ayala Museum is located the Makati Avenue corner Dela Rosa Sts., Makati. Call 7577117.

THE ALCOVE Photo Gallery will hold "Photo 101: Photography for Beginners" by Jay Alonzo on June 20, 21, 22, 27 and 29, 6-9 p.m., at Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati. Call 8921801.

AYALA Museum will host a gathering of scholars, writers, students and cultural experts in "Manila, World Entrepot: 16th-19th Century Exchange of Objects Between Asia, Europe and the Americas." This will be held on July 8-10 at Ayala Museum, Makati. Registration is ongoing until July 5. Call 7577117 to 21.

WITH JETT Pangan as the Beast

Frilly and frothy . . .

From page C1

moth in the larger entertainment field, would crowd out the ever-shrinking Broadway market with its overwhelming savvy for hype and mass-market enticements. The larger complaint was artistic: Disney's first foray into musical theater tended to dumb down the art form, rendering it as much a factory product as a Pocahontas doll or a Hercules action figure that went with your next McDonald's Happy Meal.

Is the complaint valid? For sure, it has the whiff of snooty, condescending bellyaching by Broadway purists and demimondes long nostalgic for those bygone days when New York's thriving theater culture pretty much dictated the state of American popular arts.

But finally seeing "Beauty and the Beast" on stage, at least as locally mounted by Atlantis Productions and director Bobby Garcia at the Meralco Theater, one realizes with a sinking feeling that perhaps those old codgers were right.

"Beauty and the Beast," so exquisite a creation on film, has transmogrified into a kitschy, second-rate iteration on stage, a passport to a night of thwarted expectations and unexpected letdowns at the theater.

Ravishing heroine

But first, the question of the hour: How is KC Concepcion as Belle?

Make no mistake about it, as the sharp, spunky heroine of this tale, Concepcion is a ravishing Belle. She has charisma to spare, and in the play's second half, dressed in ballgowns and finally allowed to exhibit the sense of casual royalty that seems to be her natural bearing, she is a sight to behold.

She is also, perhaps like any newbie, not yet an actress. True, she speaks her lines clearly, forcefully. She goes through her paces with vigor and precision. She is technically in good form, and her voice can carry the score.

What she lacks at this point is character, the accumulation of minute gestures, cues, actions that would stamp her Belle as an individual, a presence, and not a creature of self-conscious notion. When she steps aside to become a spectator to the action, as in the "Be Our Guest" number, she seems to disappear and merge with the scenery.

It doesn't help that she's out of sorts as a poor man's daughter. Her guileless hauteur peeks through every time, and only when dressed to the nines does she, at long last, sparkle.

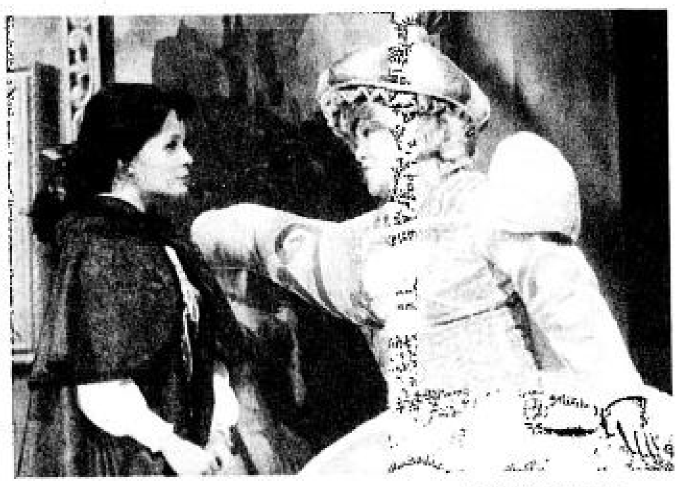
Miscasts

Tragically, such nuances don't apply to Calvin Millado, who plays Gaston as one of the two big miscasts of the musical. In the film, Gaston happens to be a genuine heartthrob—a churlish, boorish cad, but one whose vanity was anchored on a real, dangerous attractiveness. That element was fundamental in his mutation from towering narcissist to murderous bigot. Hugh Jackman played Gaston in the Australian production of "Beauty and the Beast," so you get the point.

Millado is tall, muscled and possessed of a big voice, but he is, shall we say, homely-looking. And he opts to play Gaston as a genial, manic buffoon without a trace of malevolence in either his singing or line readings. That makes his descent into the dark side, so to speak, a rather silly turn. And when he spits out the line, "As a specimen, yes, I'm intimidating!" you catch yourself muttering, in today's street argot, "Haller!"

The same miscasting blues afflict Jett Pangan as the Beast. We don't want to be unkind to Pangan, who has become, with sterling performances in "Dreamgirls," "Urinetown" and "Once On This Island," a genuine theater treasure hereabouts. But let's be honest. Pangan is a bit too long in the tooth to be playing a dreamboat prince opposite Concepcion, even one who gets to show his face only near the end.

Maurice, Belle's father, frantically describes the Beast as "8 feet—no, more like 10 feet tall!" Now, even with his Beast-ly mask on, Pangan remains short, skinny-legged and desperately non-threatening. Lumiere, the candelabra (Jonard Yanzon, engaging even if you couldn't place his faux French accent), stands even taller than this supposedly horrifying creature.



PINKY Marquez is splendid as Mrs. Potts.

As usual, Pangan sings affectingly. But when he growls and bellows, he is hard put scaring anyone with his vocal exertions. Where's the reverb when you need it?

Marvelous support

With the musical's three leads all compromised one way or the other, it's left to the supporting cast to give life to the show. In fact, they run away with it. Pinky Marquez, in particular, is marvelous as Mrs. Potts, her rendition of the title song a welcome show-stopping breather from all the antic hyperactivity on stage.

Yanzon as Lumiere and Loy Martinez as Cogsworth the talking clock make a funny pair, and their shameless mugging at least gives the musical some snap. Robbie Guevarra, Chari Arespacochaga and Cathy Azanza also flex their seasoned chops, and the ensemble as a whole, brocaded to a fault in glittering costumes by Mio Infante, sounds vibrant.

Thank heavens for them, or this staging would be more disappointing than it already is.

Breezy wit

On film, with animation's paradoxical ability to whittle down stories to their primal, visceral planes yet simultaneously elevate them to a more resonant level, "Beauty and the Beast" achieves a breezy wit and a surpassing emotional potency. Its musical numbers, rather few and far between but instantly memorable, move the story forward as much as the dialogue. At about 90 minutes' running time, the compact story makes every scene count.

In the stage version, the running time has bloated to over two hours, with new songs (by Menken and Tim Rice, who took over as lyricist after Ashman's death) distending the narrative and rendering the material into a more conventional sung-through musical. Belle and the Beast now have arias of their own, while a crucial wolf attack with the Beast rescuing Belle has been conveniently tucked away in the Entr'acte.

Yet the effect of all this slavish supersizing is the opposite. The musical now sounds far thinner than it ever did. The sight of dancing plates and high-kicking cutlery, coupled with Jerry Orbach's elegant warbling as Lumiere, is a transcendent moment in the movie. Transposed to the stage, however, with the ensemble lugging around oversized dinner china on their backs, the scene looks comically tacky, Vegas-y.

Indeed, there is so much overheated huffing and puffing in this show that Concepcion's modest performance eventually seems to acquire the sheen of appealing underacting. Plucked to an unseemly high pitch, the musical stays at that labored register and never lets go.

But it's all a cartoon, you say. The twirling plates go with the territory. Well, if you want a "Beauty and the Beast" pitched like a theme-park extravaganza, this is the show for you. But if you want to know if Rich had a point, stick with the film.

"Beauty and the Beast" runs until July 16 at the Meralco Theater. Call 8927078, 8401187 or 8919999.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

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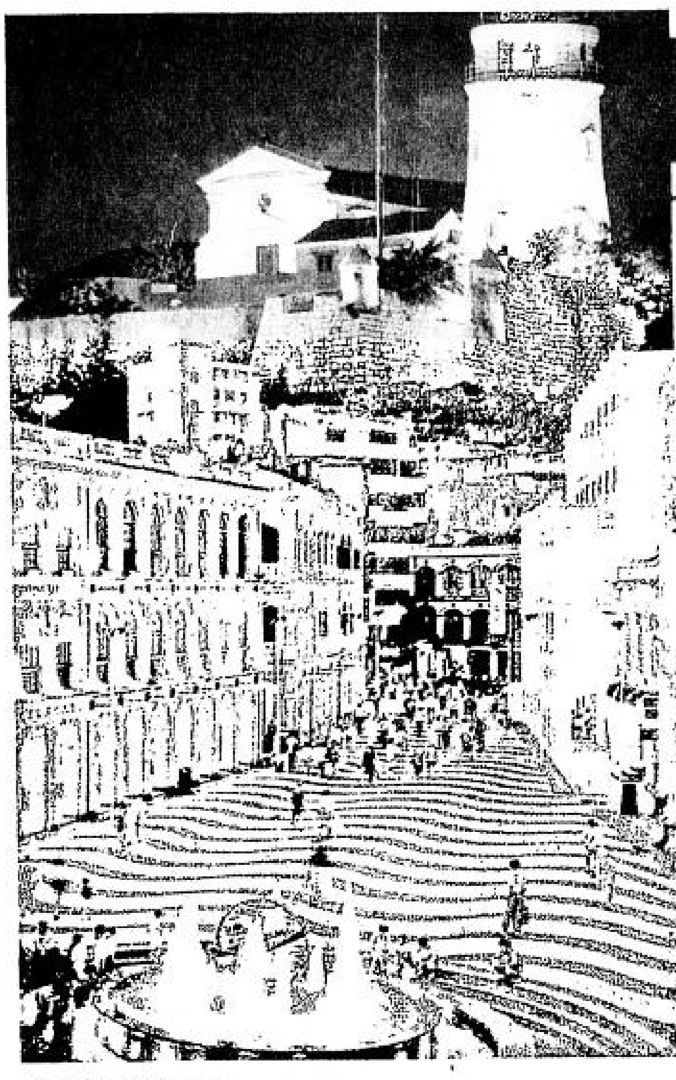
Macau's heritage of faith



LEAL Senado Square

By Nicolo F. Bernardo
Contributor

"L*UTONG Macao*" is a Filipino catchphrase for a done but fishy deal. It is traced to a fatal accident in the '60s met by a Filipino car racer who had been allegedly ditched in a game in Macau. Despite the word's unsavory roots, Macau the place is intensely interesting and picturesque.

A former Portuguese colony, Macau is your dream All-Under-Heaven. Since Western merchants turned it into a trading port like Hong Kong, Macau has been home to Europeans, Latinos, Africans, Indians and, well, Filipinos. Macanese cuisine, spirituality and lifestyle offer as much international spice.

What's common with Matteo Ricci and Sun Yat Sen is that they all stayed in this strategic Chinese place. John Paul II could have graced China with a visit via this Catholic-Buddhist city, where his message of ecumenism and religious freedom would have made no bitter bite. (The Vatican and China have no diplomatic relations.)

But it's not too late to do the walk of faith. Airborne 7 Travel, together with Lingkod ng Kabataan Alay sa Panginoon (Linkap), had made its pre-World Youth Day pilgrimage to Macau on June 4-7, and is inviting more delegates to the June 18-21 and June 25-28 trips to this harbor

MACAU'S/ D2

> Filipinos feel at home in Macau because of its Latin culture

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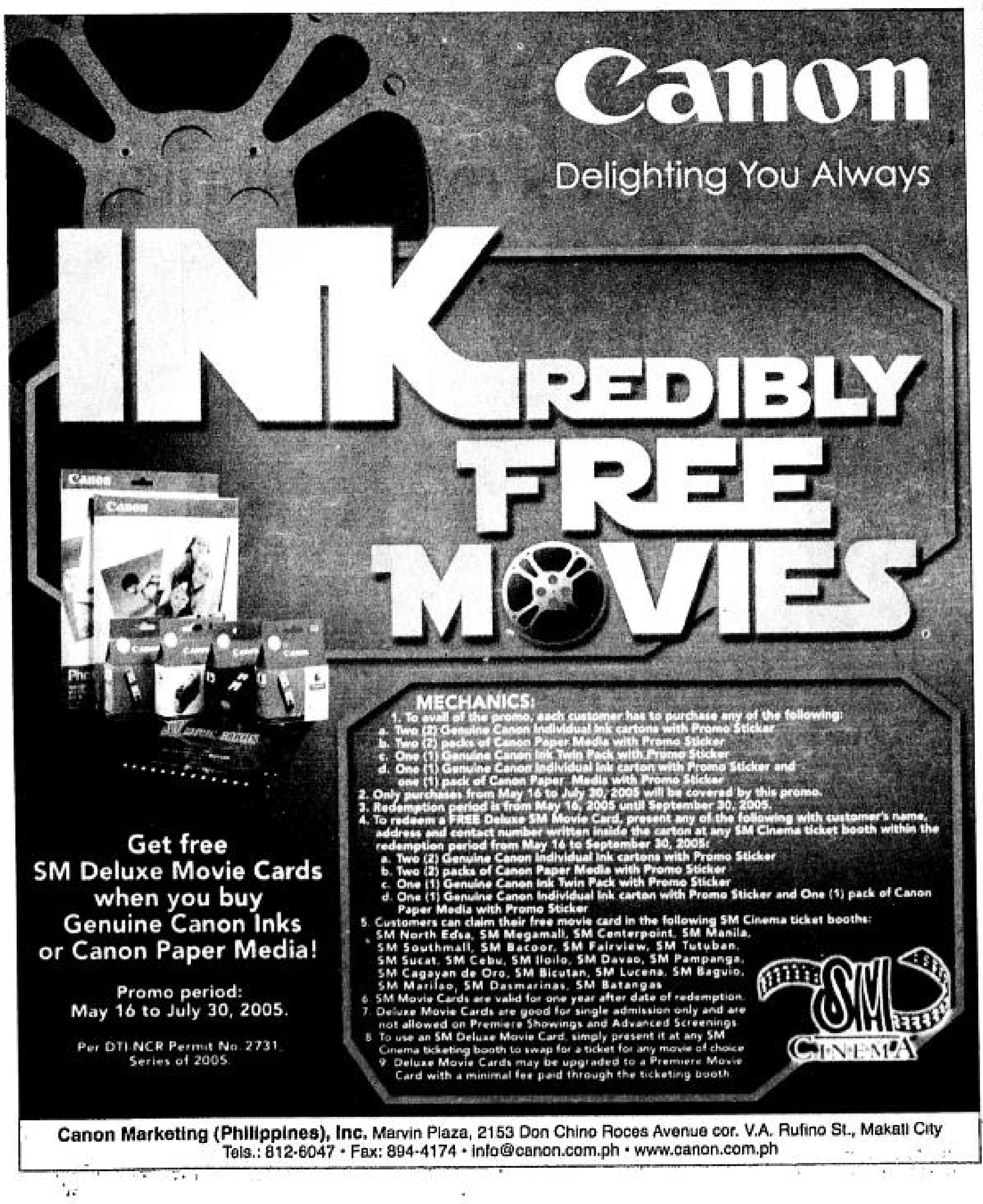

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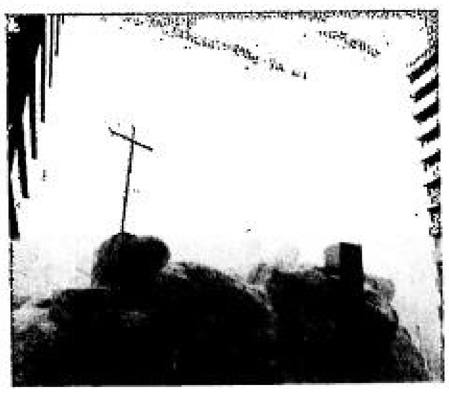


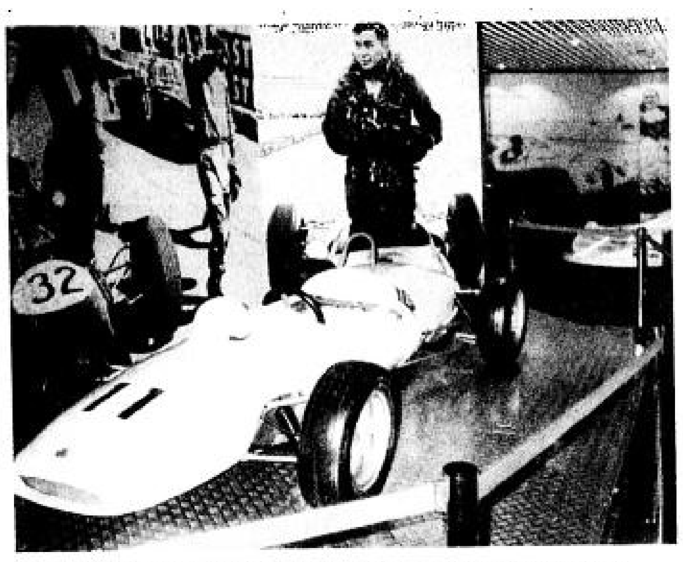
ST. PAUL'S Crypt

THE WINE Museum, with age-old wine barrels and viniculture

ST. PAUL'S Ruins at night

Macau's heritage of faith

From page D1



TWO-TIME Formula 3 champion Dodjie Laurel with his race car

city. Just like John Paul II, Macau has good taste for healthy food, sports, tradition and the sacred.

With Air Macau, the package trip includes hotel accommodation. The tour starts with lunch at Holiday Inn, where an "international buffet menu" is served. A Macanese mix of seafood and home-made desserts and pastries from different cultures are up for smorgasbord.

For a feel of God and nature, there's a side trip to Zhuhai, China's ecological city that has been given the International Award for Best Practice in Improving the Living Environment by the United Nations. The cool breeze from the South China Sea gives the perfect air for Zhuhai's famous Lover's Lane, which has an underground shopping mall.

A visit to the statue of the Lady of Pearl, Zhuhai's legendary fisher girl and pearl catcher, planted along a river, follows the day after. Next comes the walk to Bai Lian Dong Park located at the foot of a hill, where spring water from the hill forms a lake.

Drink and drive

By afternoon, a city tour back in Macau begins with a godspeed to Grand Prix Museum, where cars and motorcycles are on display.

In connection with the annual car race in Macau, on exhibit are memorabilia of the two-time Filipino Formula 3 champion, Arsenio "Dodjie" Laurel. His racing car is included in the exhibit. In a 1967 race, his car crashed against a wall, catching fire and killing Laurel instantly, thus giving birth to the expression *"lutong Macao."*

Visitors then get treated to a survey of exotic wines at the Wine Museum. The complex exhibits Portuguese and Macanese wine goods and viniculture equipment through the years. The museum presents more than 1,050 wine brands, the oldest being the 1815 Madeira.

The Maritime Museum, built on the spot where the Portuguese first landed, is the next stop. The building is styled like a ship and displays fishing and navigation instruments, weather monitors, and varieties of fishes and shellfish in Macao. Outside the museum are several real-size ships, including a Chinese dragon boat.

Just beside the museum stands the A-Ma Temple, where Macau natives first embraced the Portuguese traders. Macao came from the word *A-Ma Gao,* meaning "bay of A-Ma," the Taoist goddess of seafarers. The temple has been a popular subject for visiting artists like George Chinnery and Auguste Borget.

Holy indulgence

You've never been to Macau if you miss Leal Senado, a square snaked around by wavy mosaics of cobblestones surrounded by pastel-colored heritage buildings.

Pilgrims can check for a Mass inside the baroque St. Dominic's Church, which is often used for classical concerts. When religious orders were abolished in Portugal in 1834, the church received a great number of sacred art pieces, which it houses in a museum.

At the left of the church is a street and a grand staircase leading to St. Paul's Ruins. The surviving façade of this church, destroyed by a fire, catechizes in Chinese biblical quotes, Western imagery and Japanese chrysanthemums.

In its crypt lies the bones of Japanese and Vietnamese martyrs, who fled their motherlands and helped build the church in 1602.

Also exhibited are ivory sculptures, silver liturgical pieces, and paintings, including St. Michael the Archangel in samurai suit.

Nearby is Mount Fortress, the city's "Great Wall" that runs to 10,000 sq.m. and is equipped with cannons and ammunition supplies to survive a two-year siege!

Finally, delegates are free to spend the last day going to Hong Kong or buying mementos in Macau. A free port, Macau produces goods that are duty- and tax-free. Offered at bargain prices are Chinese antiques, glassware, porcelain and jewelry.

Meanwhile, Macau is under the "One China, Two Systems Policy" of free market and religious liberty for only 50 years. The countdown has begun. Soon enough, Macau may be cooked up for drastic changes.

For inquiries on the Macau pilgrimage, call 7519858, or 09157417182/09218398491.

ST. PAUL'S Ruins' sacred art museum

MACANESE international cuisine

PRE-WORLD Youth Day pilgrims in front of St. Paul's Ruins, symbolic of Macau's Catholic heritage

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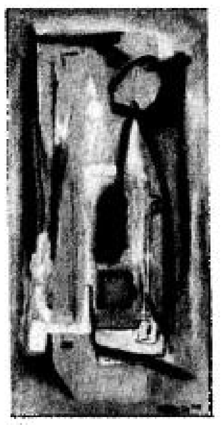
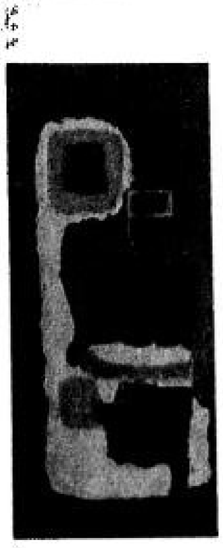
Spontaneity and sincerity in Gonzalo Uy's expressionism

By Gary C. Devilles
Contributor



"QUIET Time"



"FEW Sacred Whispers" 2

ARTISTS are superseded insidiously by photographers in this era enigmatically referred to by the critic Walter Benjamin as the age of mechanical reproduction—the age in which the power and function of mimetic representation is relinquished from the canvas to the snapshot.

Reproduction captures images which escape natural vision. Thus, at the turn of the century, artists like Ernst Kircher, Emil Nolde, Paul Klee and Franz Marc were beleaguered by the growing popularity of photography.

For Kircher, art must not be limited to mimetic representation but should be a rendition of the artists' convictions and inner world. More important, artists must pierce the illusion of things.

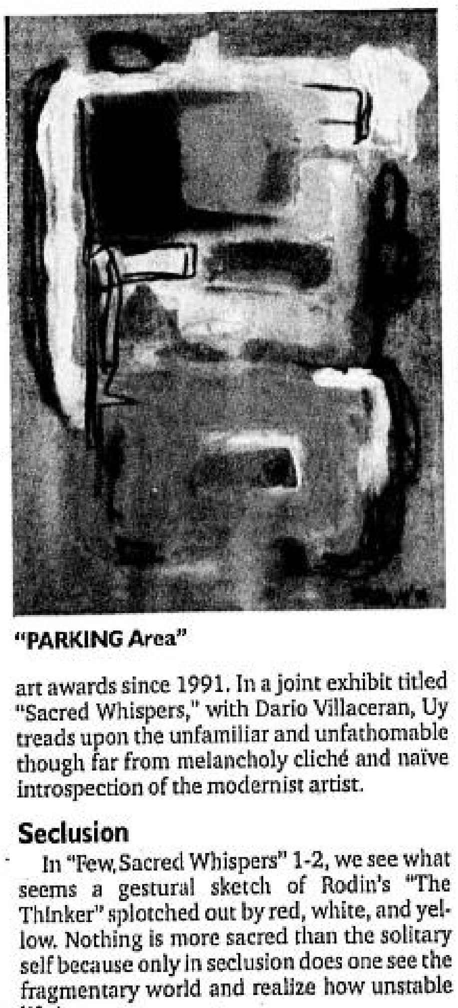
In due course, Kircher would inaugurate the movement called Modernism, which stands as a challenge to the mechanical reproduction of art.

Art critic Alice Guillermo, in her book "Image to Meaning," said that Modernism is recapitulated in the creed: to create reality, an artist must first have the force to kill it.

In this modernist creed, the artist creates rather than copies and has the power to transform the fragmentary world he or she inhabits into a whole or a definite form.

Hence, modernism for artists like Cesar Legaspi becomes the quintessential expression of their conviction of autonomy anchored on the sincerity and spontaneity of the art. Nowhere is this conviction truer than today, particularly for young artists like Gonzalo Uy, who comes from the expressionist tradition.

Uy, a marketing graduate of International Academy of Management and Economics in Makati City, has been a recipient of numerous art awards since 1991. In a joint exhibit titled "Sacred Whispers," with Dario Villaceran, Uy treads upon the unfamiliar and unfathomable though far from melancholy cliché and naïve introspection of the modernist artist.



"PARKING Area"

Seclusion

In "Few, Sacred Whispers" 1-2, we see what seems a gestural sketch of Rodin's "The Thinker" splotched out by red, white, and yellow. Nothing is more sacred than the solitary self because only in seclusion does one see the fragmentary world and realize how unstable life is.

Ironically it is in this wavering of spirit that one seems to draw inspiration and strength, enabling one to reconnect and seize the moment.

Though the theme of solitude is depicted with seriousness in "Few Sacred Whispers," in "Afternoon Delights" 1-2 the solitary self is portrayed in contentment. The white specter in its schematic features again suggests the solitary individual while the striated shading of yellow background intimates his cheery and jovial disposition.

We see the painter's spontaneity as Uy treats the subject of solitude with much contradiction and elusiveness. Undeniably by portraying contemplation, Uy is a keen observer who cultivates an oblique glance toward life and allows us a space into which difficult problems are explored.

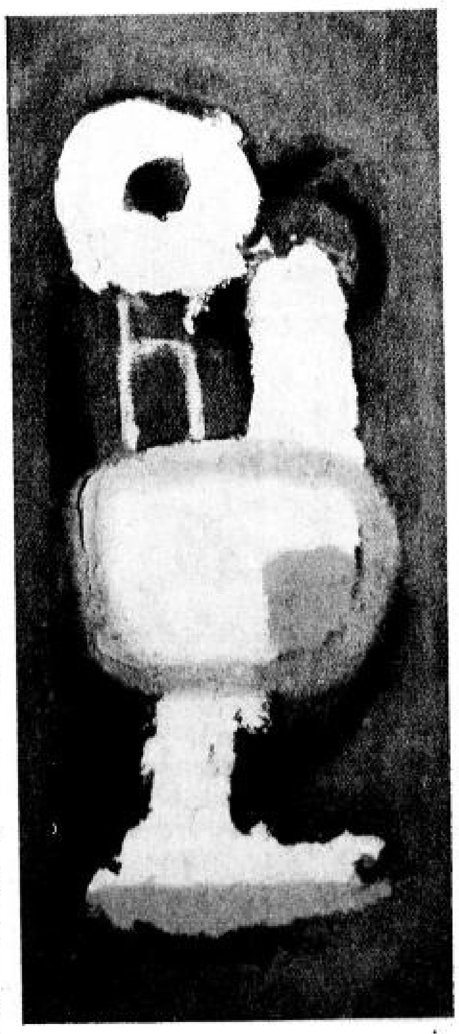
Uy is definitely a modernist who does not fear to explore the soul and its ambiguities as can be seen in "Quiet Time." Replete with the presentiment of a new life as contemplated in silence, it depicts a spectral individual bursting in crimson amid a foreboding overcast background.

Through these works, the self is the ultimate paradox, whose artistic culture leads one to aspire for the sublime while at the same time one's intoxicated nature brings about utter destruction.

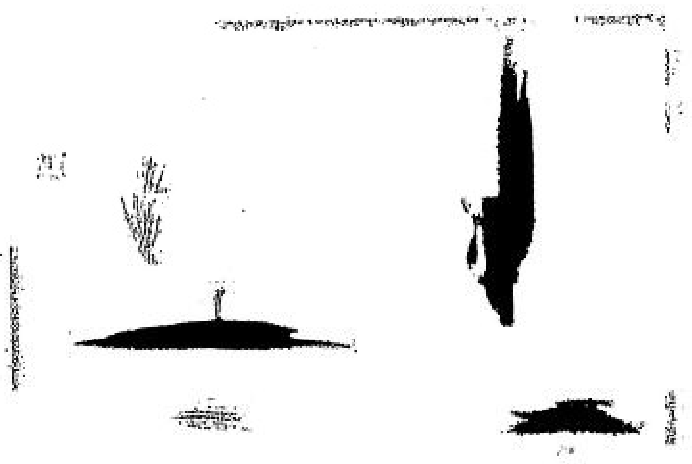
The modern age, is indeed, both frightening and stirring in a way that our dreary reality and alienation may bring about the indispensable transformation of ourselves.

For young painter Gonzalo Uy, such transformation comes from within, in quiet contemplation, and in the sanctity of whisper. He bids us to have fidelity to ourselves, and, in this world obscured by endless inanity, his art bears promising thoughts on self-renewal.

"Sacred Whispers" is extended until June 28 at One Luna Gallery, One Luna Lifestyle Center, Eastwood, Libis, QC. Call or 0928-2188516.



"FEW Sacred Whispers" 1



"PONDERING" 10, by Lascano

The poetic image

By Constantino C. Tejero

IN LYRIC poetry, nothing can be more distilled in thought, emotion and image than the haiku, one of the glories of Zen. Not even the constraint of the sonnet's 14 lines can quite compare in couching a world in language so spare.

Minimalist art, often described as Zen-like, should therefore find a counterpart in the haiku, at least in theory, not necessarily in content. The two would make a perfect fit.

This is demonstrated in Rico Lascano's "Pondering," 16 pieces in acrylic and graphite on paper and on canvas, until June 24 in Galerie Astra, L/2, LRI Business Plaza, Nicanor Garcia Street, Bel Air II, Makati City.

Each piece is coupled with a haiku written by Lascano's wife Chachu. Though painting and poem can stand independent of each other, the wedding of visual and written word makes for a richer art.

For instance, one painting, showing vertical brushstrokes of gray and midnight-blue tinged with ochre and a barely perceptible pencil drawing of a spiral and a red dot, is accompanied by this haiku: "Autumn night is deep/ The pond a cloak of black/ A red lantern calls."

In an instant, in what could be a flash of satori, the viewer sees the pond and lantern appear and disappear in the night, and even swears hearing water rippling in the dark.

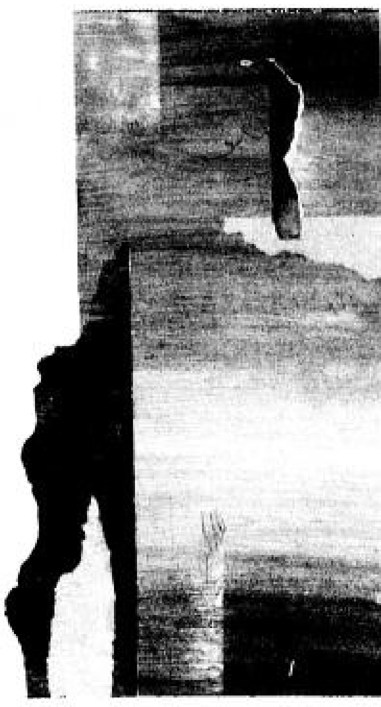
The exhibit is subtitled "Word and Visual Reflections of Life as Viewed from a Pond." That announces both subject and theme: the natural world and the life philosophies derived from it.

Even the play on the word *reflection* is evident, its double meaning of the physical and the spiritual. We take it, therefore, that each painting is a fish-eye view, or the perspective of a frog or an aquatic insect.

Spiritual completion

The paintings are mostly monochromatic, in gray, white, black, brown, blue, with a few chromatic tinges and smudges. They're essentially abstract with a few suggestions of image: a cloud, ripples of water, rainfall. This is, indeed, very Zen.

Some of the poems, though, can do without the adjectives and adverbs, the truism and flat statements, such as: "How firm, how steadfast/ The moss obliging each flow/ Gathering wisdom." Or this: "Dark clouds snarl and mock/ Seizing the day's last bright light/ Not knowing hope thrives."



"PONDERING" 12, by Rico Lascano

Remember, the haiku is the height of imagism, the distillation of a philosophy. The art of the haiku is spareness and suggestiveness. Therefore, it doesn't have to be pushed around, beaten up, knocked down. A gentle prodding would be enough.

A notable example is the one accompanying "Pondering" 3: "A curtain of silk/ Falling water, bamboo leaves/ The gush of summer." The canvas is covered with graphite-gray gradating into oyster-gray, the upper section embellished with calligraphic lines and off-center a small stroke of ochre.

See? An artwork doesn't have to be explained away to give an impact.

As bonus in the show, the Lascanos' seven-year-old son Miró, a budding artist, presents his "Fireworks" series in acrylic on paper. Depicting free-floating forms in flat primary and secondary colors, these are vivid counterpoints to his father's monochromatic pieces.

While the elder Lascano is exploring earth, water and air, the boy has chosen to celebrate the fourth element, fire. It's a kind of closure, a spiritual completion, as it were.

Minimalist essential

Another artist who may be striving for Zen is Roberto Robles, most evident in his minimalist sculptures in granite, marble, wood and resin.

In his vividly hued painted reliefs or combine paintings, he has appropriated themes and subjects from classical Japanese and Chinese poetry, such as the pond, blossoms, the four seasons, the courtyard at moonlight—but the result is more Western abstraction than Oriental flavor.

In his quest for the minimalist essential, Robles has of late eschewed chromatics and concentrated on the monochrome. An accomplished colorist, he has demonstrated he can excel as well in dealing with one tone. He may have achieved with the monochrome what could well be the visual equivalent of a tone poem, what he has never accomplished with clashing hues.

Consider his "New Works on Paper," 17 pieces in acrylic, charcoal and paper cutouts on Canson paper, displayed recently in Galleria Duemila, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

These are neither figurative nor abstract art, but random collections of bits and pieces, paperworks painted in white, gray, black, with some spots of ochre, embellished with charcoal drawings, woodblock imprints, text inscribed in graphite, paper cutouts, gestural strokes and calligraphic lines. The exhibit note calls it a "visual diary."

The composition in some of the pieces looks chaotic. There might be some order in that, as the chaos theory would propose, but the feeling of chance, of haphazard quality, won't leave the viewer.

And here the power of the monochrome manifests itself. It is the monochrome that holds the bits and pieces together, purifies them, highlights each form or smudging, projects them to the viewer.

The effect is strangely beautiful. Each piece, however banal, has been transformed into an undeniable piece of art.

Transcendent whiteness

Consider, for instance, "Folded Memoirs in Mustard and Violet Hues, Brilliant Motion of Blue Flickers." It consists of vividly hued pieces of folded paper and cutouts pasted on a background of pristine white. It seems like child's play, but look longer and you'd see how perfect the composition is, and how lovely the contrast of color and monotone.

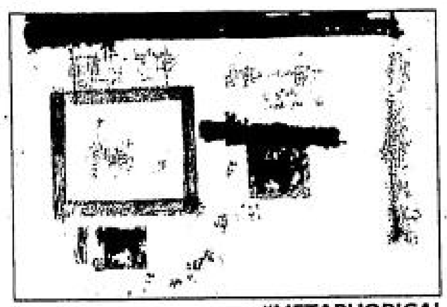
Some of the pieces are banal-looking, such as "Metaphorical Thoughts" 1, consisting of smudging and gestural marks, textual inscription, squares and rectangles. On one side is an erect figure which appears to be a study of a granite obelisk Robles exhibited a few years ago.

Since this exhibit has been described as a visual diary, we take it, therefore, that the pieces are recordings of the artist's random thoughts (the textual elements) and studies of his works (the diagrams and drawings). Typical is "Beyond the Rules of the Sage."

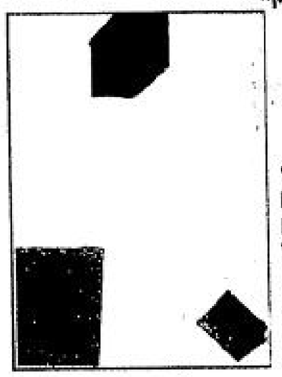
Robles lived for five years in Japan and completed his Master of Fine Arts, major in Sculpture, at the Institute of Art and Design in the University of Tsukuba. That's why his art has been automatically described as Zen, though he may have a different aspiration.

Minimalism in art doesn't automatically qualify it as Zen-like. The series "Kite-Maker's Morning Reflection" is quite minimalist, particularly in its ample use of space in transcendent whiteness. But we would pause, and reflect, before calling these pieces Zen.

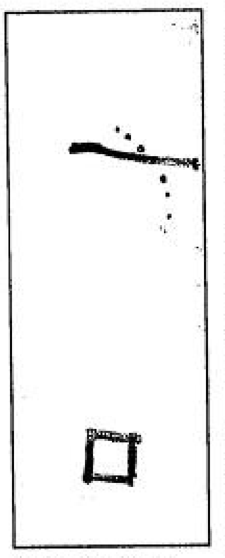
A few do have an Oriental flavor. Look at the paper cutouts. They're undeniably origami.



"METAPHORICAL Thoughts" 2, by Roberto Robles



"FOLDED Memoirs in Mustard and Violet Hues, Brilliant Motion of Blue Flickers" 2, by Robles



"KITE-MAKER'S Morning Reflection" 3, by Robles

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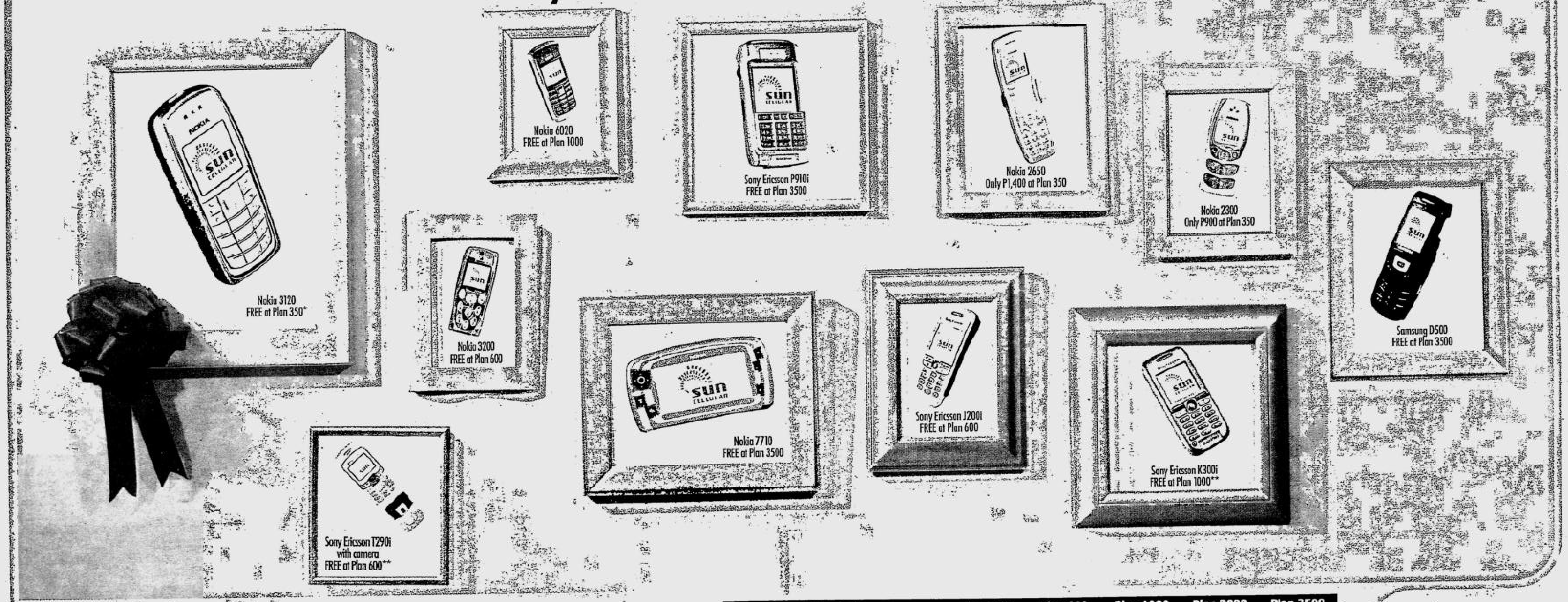
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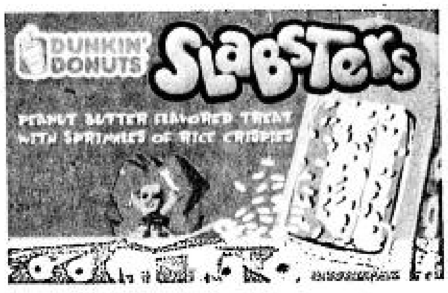
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Bloody 'Historian'

This guilty pleasure of a vampire novel combines horror with 'Da Vinci Code'-style intrigue

By Ruel S. De Vera

"The Historian"
By Elizabeth Kostova
Little, Brown and Company, New York,
2005, 647 pages

SOME novels stand out because they herald an entirely new brand of writing, while others catch the attention because they offer an irresistible merging of several successful genres, creating a beguiling literary Frankenstein novel of sorts.

That set of mismatched comparisons is most apt to Elizabeth Kostova's debut novel, "The Historian." Combining aspects of horror, adventure and history, the novel can easily be seen as a hybrid of "The Da Vinci Code" and Bram Stoker's "Dracula." No, really.

The Stoker reference is rather obvious considering Kostova's book is purportedly about the real Vlad the Impaler—in its own fashion. The lure of "The Historian" is that it is not obviously about that in the beginning.

Told in first person by Kostova's nameless female professor protagonist, "The Historian" sees its twisting story unfurl when the narrator discovers a mysterious old leather-bound book marked with an intricate dragon design, almost identical to the book her own father, himself a former historian, received decades ago. Along with the book, she finds long, dark letters from her father, letters full of dreadful and fearful things.

These yellowed letters involve a lot of literary and historical research in several exotic cities around the world; this is the part that recalls Dan Brown's immensely popular Robert Langdon novels, a sort of nerdy library-set adventure beyond armchairs.

Then, the young narrator, a 16-year-old American, sets off on a dangerous trip, one that echoes that of her father, a trip that has to do with the fate of the missing mother Helen and with tracking down the vampiric Vlad.

"My dear and unfortunate successor," the fateful letter reads. "It is with regret that I imagine you, whoever you are, reading the account I must put down here... I will surely be at least in trouble, maybe dead or perhaps worse, if this is in your hands. But my regret is also for you, my yet-known friend, because only by someone who needs such vile information will this letter someday be read."

It's a rather wild mission, involving secret orders, ancient monasteries, undead pursuers, train journeys and a family's terrible secret. It's also all a rather big horror hoot; engrossing and memorable as a well-made guilty pleasure.

Epistolary

The epistolary nature of "The Historian" bears its own strange quirk: If they were real, these would be the most articulate and perhaps longest letters ever written, as the missives contain dialogue, descriptions and transitional devices. In other words, if these letters were real, their author certainly had an unbelievable amount of time as well as grace under duress in order to write them this way.

The overly expository structure of "The Historian" stands in stark contrast to its feel. It's a rather distracting aspect of the book, but also a built-in weakness.

But Kostova does particularly well in never, not even for a moment, lifting the veil of disbelief, thus giving "The Historian" a remarkable sense of being real, much to frightening effect.

Readers will have to first figure out whether or not this Vlad is real, or merely the hyped-up object of gothic imagination we're familiar with. Even with all the research, much of it quite fascinating really, Kostova keeps Vlad much in the shadows, keeping the vampire lurking about.

Aside from Kostova adopting an unflinching countenance, "The Historian" also boasts of a welcome eye for detail and atmosphere, giving it an extra dose of creepiness and exoticism.

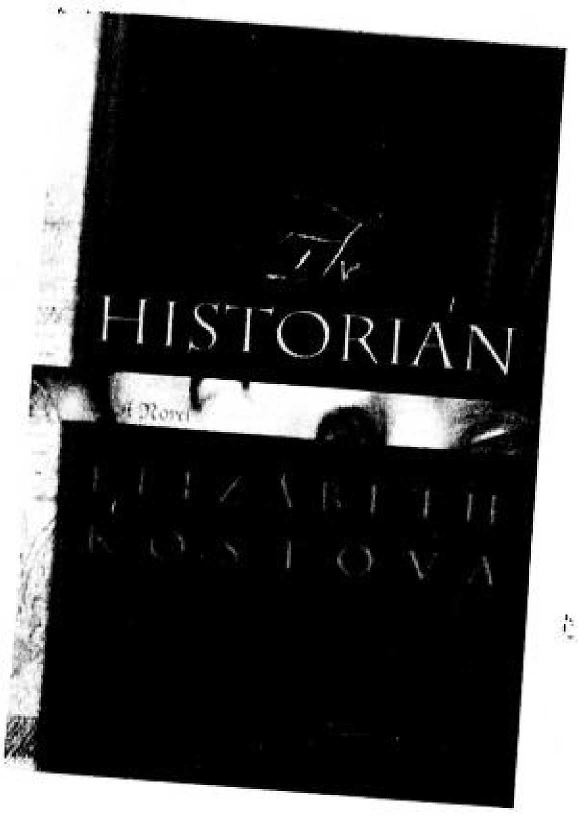
Kostova revises the idea of vampires, and invests her vision with a complementary set of weaknesses and strengths, adding to the flavor of the book. It's the balance between the singularly focused chase through documents that gives it a recognizable though extremely watered-down "The Da Vinci Code" feel.

If only she had kept it up for the book's entire length. After an inspired buildup that takes up most of the book, "The Historian" rushes to the end, throwing the reader into confusion and giving the book a hurried finish, certainly not up to the level of craftsmanship present in the earlier chapters.

Like the vampire at the heart of the shadowy search, "The Historian" is a novel of surprising strength and flaws, particularly since it clearly aspires to be so much to so many.

But Elizabeth Kostova's debut book remains a remarkably hypnotic reading experience, something distinctly fearful at the edge of your mind, yet something that also seems to slip away when one tries to reach for it.

Available at National Book Store and PowerBooks.



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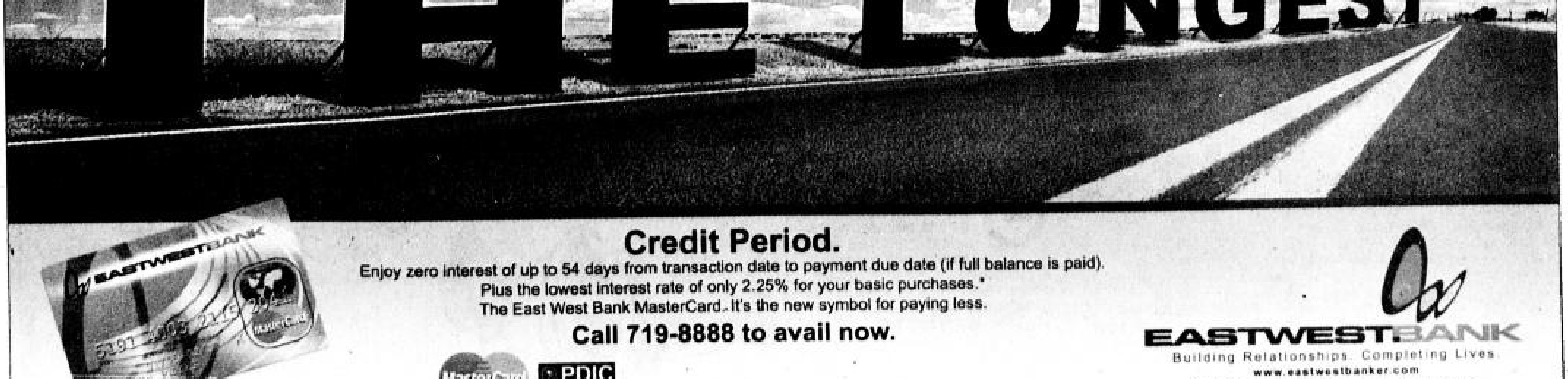
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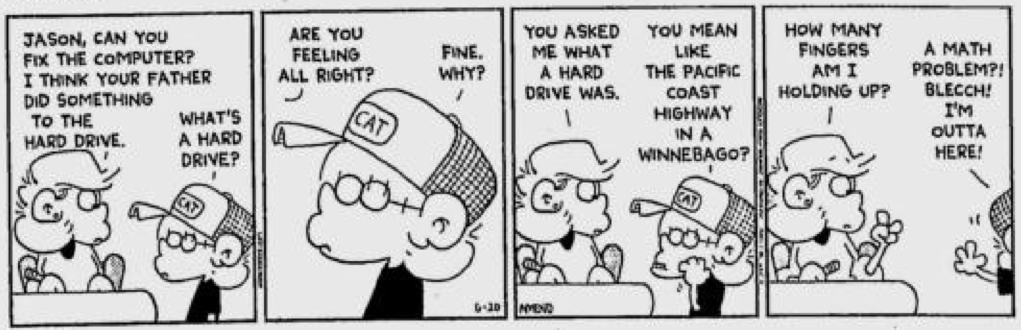
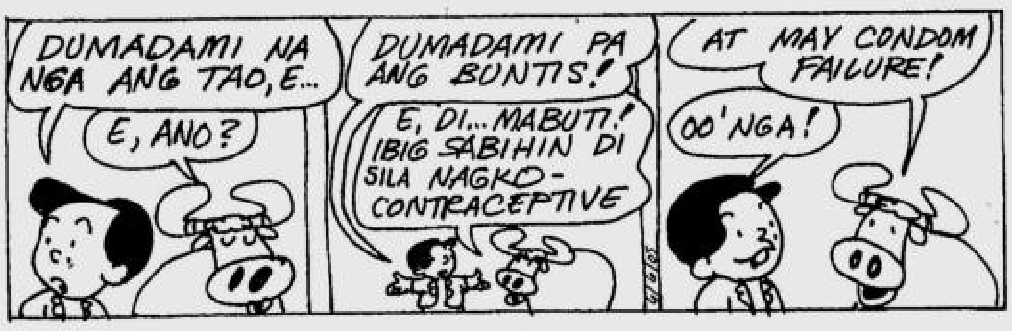
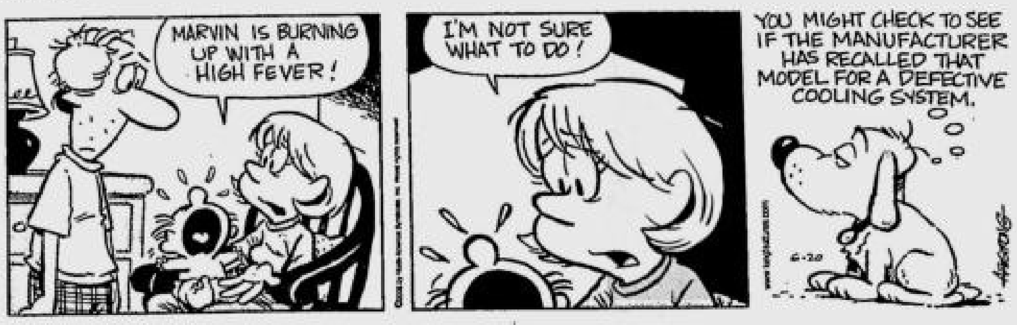
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


JASON, CAN YOU FIX THE COMPUTER? I THINK YOUR FATHER DID SOMETHING TO THE HARD DRIVE.
WHAT'S A HARD DRIVE?
ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?
FINE. WHY?
6-20
YOU ASKED ME WHAT A HARD DRIVE WAS.
YOU MEAN LIKE THE PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY IN A WINNEBAGO?
AMEND
HOW MANY FINGERS AM I HOLDING UP?
A MATH PROBLEM?! BLECCH! I'M OUTTA HERE!

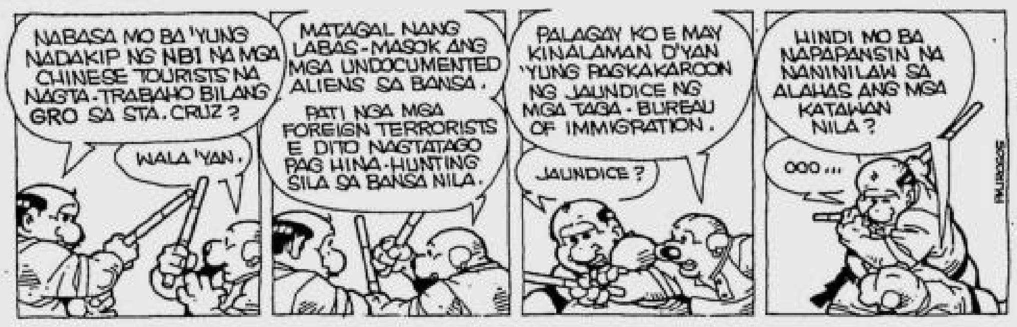
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


DUMADAMI NA NGA ANG TAO, E...
E, ANO?
DUMADAMI PA ANG BUNTIS!
E, DI... MABUTI! IBIG SABIHIN DI SILA NAGKO-CONTRACEPTIVE
AT MAY CONDOM FAILURE!
OO'NGA!

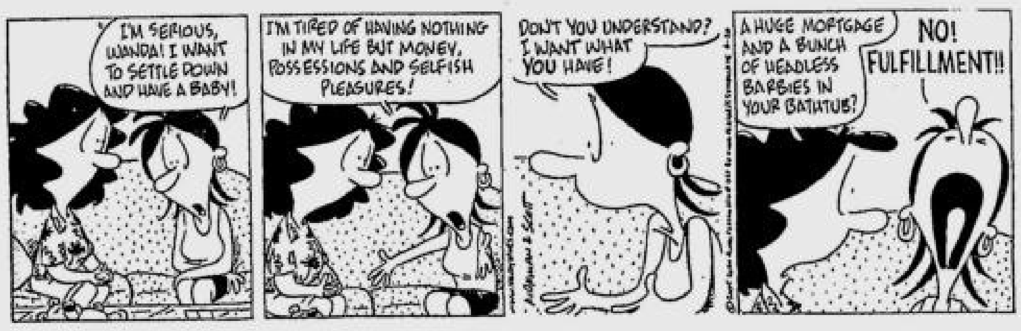
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MARVIN IS BURNING UP WITH A HIGH FEVER!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO!
YOU MIGHT CHECK TO SEE IF THE MANUFACTURER HAS RECALLED THAT MODEL FOR A DEFECTIVE COOLING SYSTEM.
6-20
ARMSTRONG

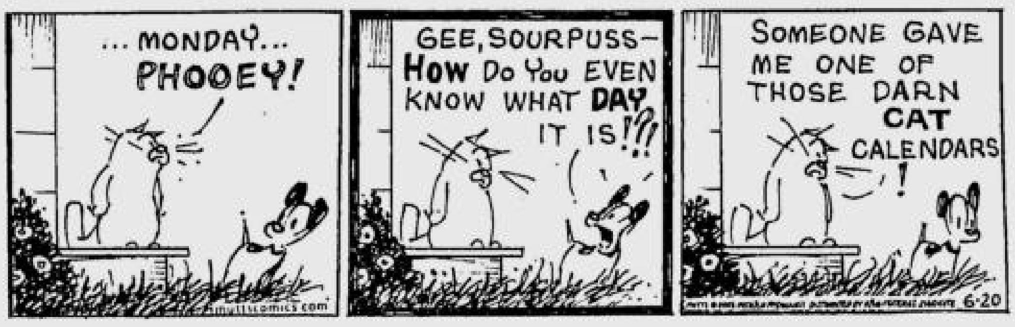
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


NABASA MO BA 'YUNG NADAKIP NG NBI NA MGA CHINESE TOURISTS NA NAGTA-TRABAHO BILANG GRO SA STA. CRUZ?
WALA 'YAN.
MATAGAL NANG LABAS-MASOK ANG MGA UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS SA BANSA.
PATI NGA MGA FOREIGN TERRORISTS E DITO NAGTATAGO PAG HINA-HUNTING SILA SA BANSA NILA.
PALAGAY KO E MAY KINALAMAN D'YAN 'YUNG PAGKAKAROON NG JAUNDICE NG MGA TAGA-BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION.
JAUNDICE?
HINDI MO BA NAPAPANSIN NA NANINILAW SA ALAHAS ANG MGA KATAWAN NILA?
OOO...
PMJR2005

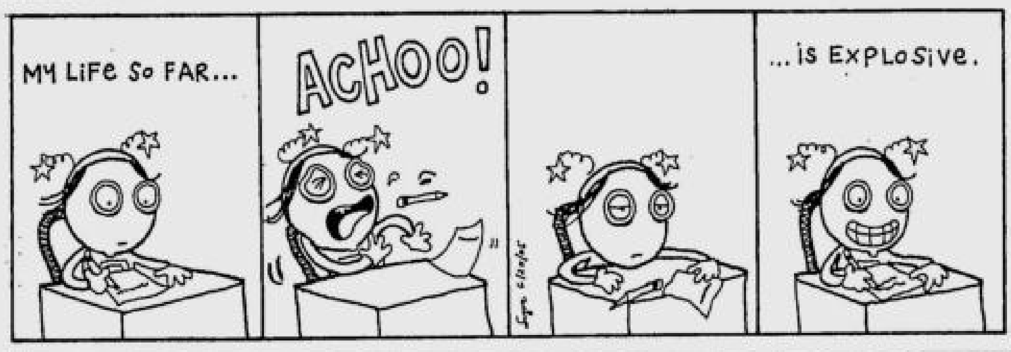
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M SERIOUS, WANDA! I WANT TO SETTLE DOWN AND HAVE A BABY!
I'M TIRED OF HAVING NOTHING IN MY LIFE BUT MONEY, POSSESSIONS AND SELFISH PLEASURES!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I WANT WHAT YOU HAVE!
A HUGE MORTGAGE AND A BUNCH OF HEADLESS BARBIES IN YOUR BATHTUB?
NO! FULFILLMENT!!
Kirkman & Scott

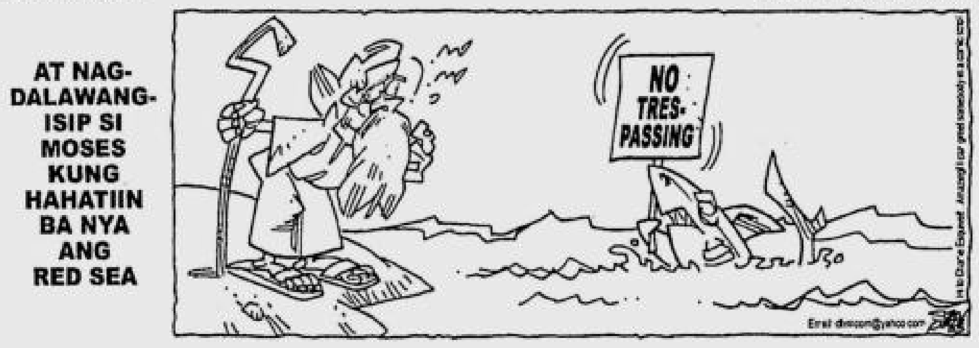
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


... MONDAY... PHOOEY!
mutts comics.com
GEE, SOURPUSS— HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS!?!
SOMEONE GAVE ME ONE OF THOSE DARN CAT CALENDARS!
6-20

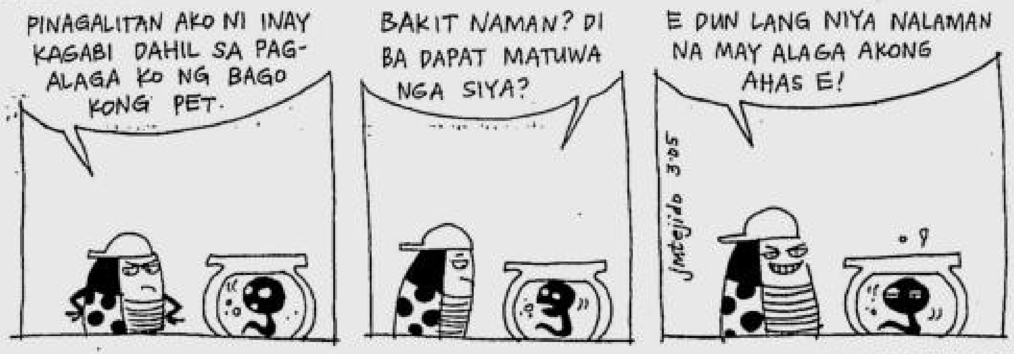
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


MY LIFE SO FAR...
ACHOO!
... is EXPLOSIVE.

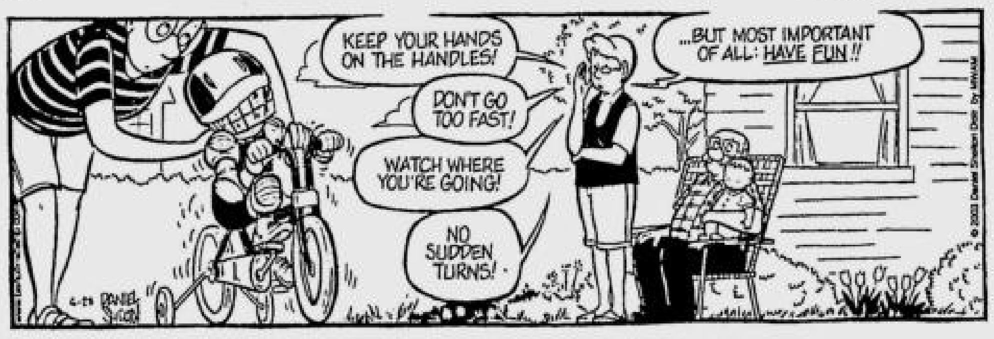
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AT NAG-DALAWANG-ISIP SI MOSES KUNG HAHATIIN BA NYA ANG RED SEA
NO TRES-PASSING
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

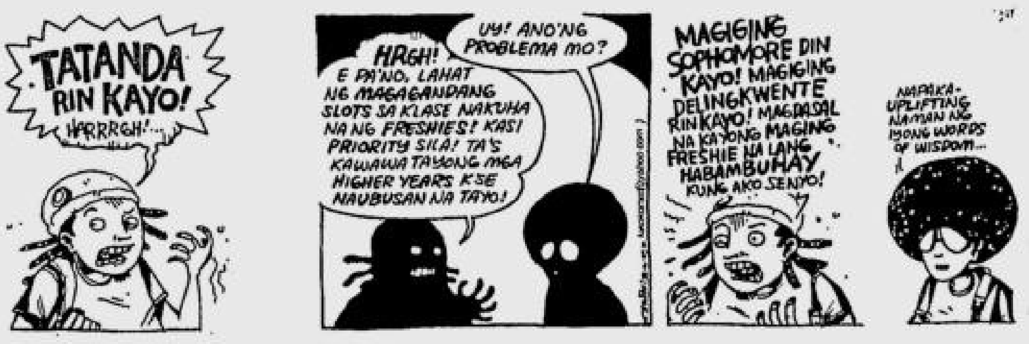
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PINAGALITAN AKO NI INAY KAGABI DAHIL SA PAG-ALAGA KO NG BAGO KONG PET.
BAKIT NAMAN? DI BA DAPAT MATUWA NGA SIYA?
E DUN LANG NIYA NALAMAN NA MAY ALAGA AKONG AHAS E!
jmtejido 3.05

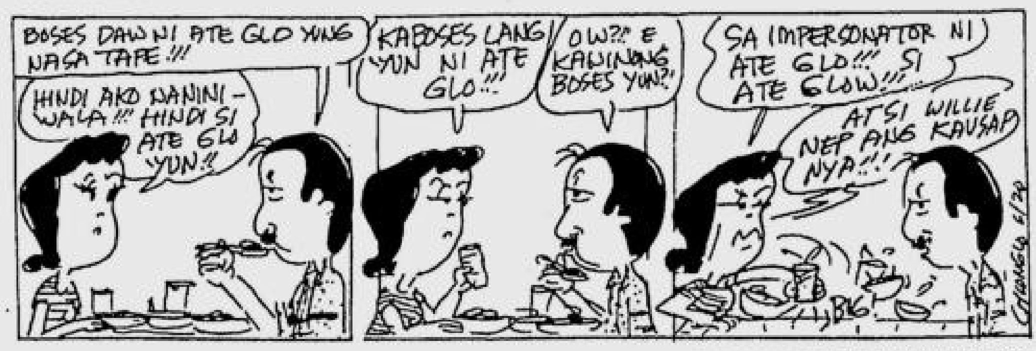
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE HANDLES!
DON'T GO TOO FAST!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
NO SUDDEN TURNS!
...BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL: HAVE FUN!!
6-20 DANIEL SHELTON

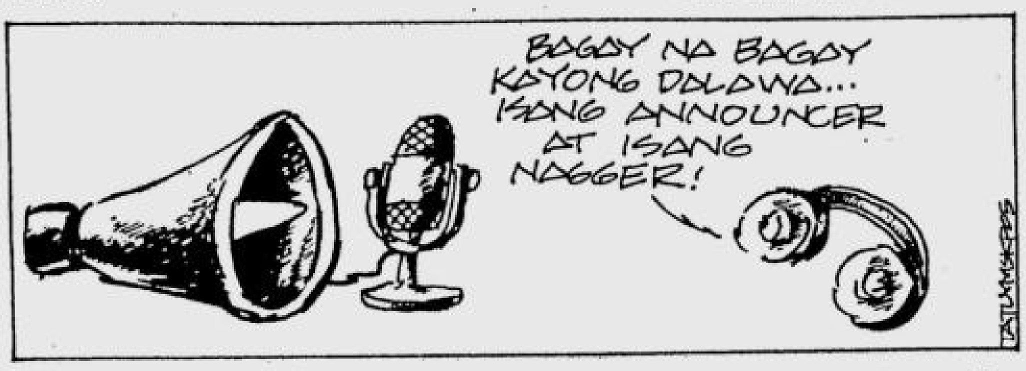
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TATANDA RIN KAYO! HARRRGH!...
HRGH! E PA'NO, LAHAT NG MAGAGANDANG SLOTS SA KLASE NAKUHA NA NG FRESHIES! KASI PRIORITY SILA! TA'S KAWAWA TAYONG MGA HIGHER YEARS KSE NAUBUSAN NA TAYO!
UY! ANO'NG PROBLEMA MO?
MAGIGING SOPHOMORE DIN KAYO! MAGIGING DELINGKWENTE RIN KAYO! MAGDASAL NA KAYONG MAGING FRESHIE NA LANG HABAMBUHAY KUNG AKO SENYO!
NAPAKA-UPLIFTING NAMAN NG IYONG WORDS OF WISDOM...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOSES DAW NI ATE GLO YUNG NASA TAPE!!!
HINDI AKO NANINI-WALA!!! HINDI SI ATE GLO YUN!!
KABOSES LANG YUN NI ATE GLO!!!
OW?!! E KANINONG BOSES YUN?!
SA IMPERSONATOR NI ATE GLO!!! SI ATE GLOW!!!
AT SI WILLIE NEP ANG KAUSAP NYA!!!
CHIONGLO 6/20

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAGAY NA BAGAY KAYONG DALAWA... ISANG ANNOUNCER AT ISANG NAGGER!
TATUM&PAPU

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're charismatic, in part because you have strong, vibrant energy. You can definitely influence others—sometimes almost hypnotize them. Excitement and emotion often surround you. You have strong intuitive, psychic abilities. (Always trust your instincts.) The year ahead is a lovely, social one! It promotes fun and romance! Birthdate of: Nicole Kidman, actress; Brian Wilson, singer/songwriter; Catherine Cookson, popular romance writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): For the next month, your focus swings to home, family and real estate matters. This suits you just fine because that is where your heart is right now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A busy month ahead! You're cooking on all four burners. You have places to go, people to see, things to do. Stay calm and focused, and you will accomplish a lot.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're focused on your cash flow right now. You want to know how much you own and how much you owe. You might be spending more than usual as well.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The Sun is in your sign now, for the next four weeks. This is your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): If possible, you need to have increased rest and relaxation in the next six weeks. You need time alone to pull your act together before you take it on the road.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your interaction with friends and groups will increase in the next month. Accept all invitations. Join clubs and associations. Enjoy your increased popularity!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The Sun is at high noon in your chart, and this means other people notice you. You might be asked to accept increased responsibilities. If so, do it. You will shine!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your desire to travel or to learn more about your world is very strong now. If you can travel in the next month or increase your training and education, then do so.

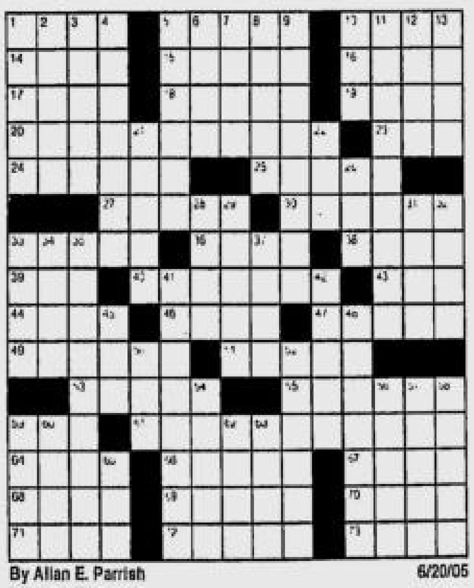
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Now is the time to sort out the details of the joint ownership of something. Shared property, insurance matters, wills, inheritances and taxes need your attention in the next few weeks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Four planets are now opposite your sign. This totally focuses your attention on close friendships and partnerships.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have energy to burn! You're keen to get organized both at home and at work. It's time to find the floor of your bedroom closet!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Romance, the arts, playful activities with children, the entertainment world and everything having to do with show business are where it's at for you now and in the next six weeks. You want to play! You want to have fun!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

6/20/05

ACROSS
1 Con game
5 Anxious feeling
10 Doubtful
14 Woody's son
15 More uncommon
16 Part of a shoe
17 Synthesizer inventor
18 Accra location
19 Bow on a liner
20 Borgnine's TV series
23 __ Moines
24 Mariner
25 Prepare to drive
27 Memory units
30 Cedar __, IA
33 USMC rank
36 Actor Omar
38 Piece of cake
39 Tumor: suff.
40 "Let's Stay Together" singer
43 PA nuclear accident site
44 Pioneer Boone, casually
46 Doubter's query
47 Ratify
49 Delhi man
51 Measuring instrument
53 Enticed
55 Baltic country
59 Marksman
61 Team starters
64 Bryn __ College
66 Implied
67 Shivering ill
68 This puzzle's theme word
69 Classical lyric poem
70 Succotash ingredient
71 "Devil Inside" group
72 Taxi ticker
73 Waste allowance

DOWN
1 Actress Emma
2 "Time in a Bottle" singer
3 Hi, on HI
4 Gardner/Gable film
5 "Hold Your Head Up" group
6 Slangy turndowns
7 Nanna
8 French legislature
9 __ City, MI
10 AOL, e.g.
11 Old compact
12 Mass of ice
13 Trees for bows
21 Clapton classic
22 Affirmative response
26 FedEx rival
28 Med. readings
29 Parsley unit
31 Moist
32 Barbecue rod
33 Italian city
34 Fed. agent
35 Tallow alternative
37 Anti-fur org.
41 Kind of veto
42 Pester persistently
45 Actress Lucy
48 Take away (from)
50 Kennel sound
52 Irish overcoat
54 Hang in loose folds
56 Vitality
57 Toughen
58 Spy
59 Both: pref.
60 Normandy town
62 Highlander
63 Ebb or neap
65 Hosp. personnel

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	N	I	T	O	B	A	■	A	C	C	E	S	S
A	V	E	R	A	G	E	D	■	C	R	A	D	L	E
P	A	T	E	L	L	A	S	■	C	O	N	N	I	E
■	■	■	■	L	E	T	■	D	O	O	D	A	D	S
R	E	P	A	I	R	S	■	R	U	N	E	■	■	■
E	R	O	D	E	S	■	T	O	N	E	L	E	S	S
M	A	I	D	S	■	C	O	N	T	R	A	L	T	O
A	S	S	■	■	S	A	T	E	S	■	■	A	I	L
K	E	E	L	S	O	V	E	R	■	C	H	I	L	I
E	S	S	E	N	C	E	S	■	M	O	A	N	E	D
■	■	■	C	E	R	T	■	S	O	N	L	E	S	S
P	R	E	H	E	A	T	■	P	O	T	■	■	■	■
R	U	P	E	R	T	■	F	A	R	E	W	E	L	L
A	D	O	R	E	E	■	I	C	E	S	H	E	E	T
M	E	S	S	R	S	■	R	E	S	T	Y	L	E	D

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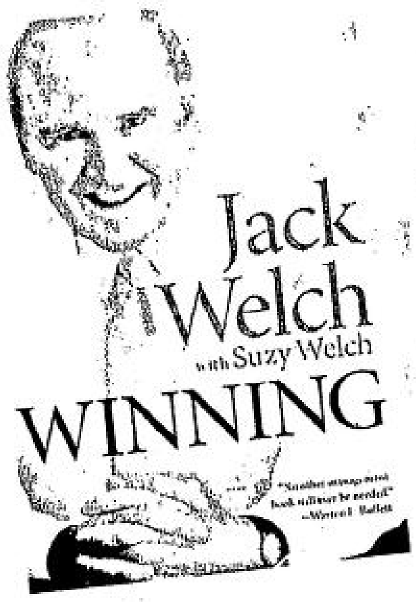
6/20/05



Race to the top with these books

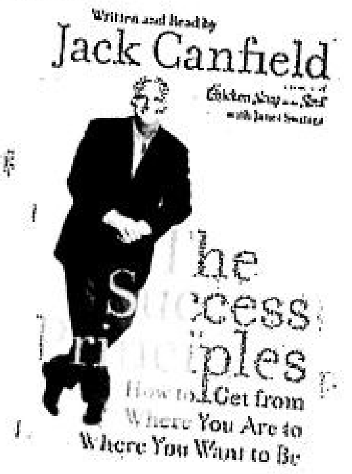
JACK Canfield, co-creator of the phenomenal best-selling Chicken Soup for the Soul series, shares the principles he studied, taught and lived for more than 30 years in "The Success Principles," a practical and inspiring guide that will help any person get from where he is to where he wants to be.

The Success Principles will teach you how to increase your confidence, tackle daily challenges, live with passion and purpose and realize all your ambitions. Not merely a collection of good ideas, this book spells out the 64 timeless principles used by successful men and women throughout history.

Meanwhile, Jack Welch's "Winning" should be the handbook for everyone from fresh college graduates to high-level managers in learning business principles, especially on developing people skills and setting business strategy.

No other business book on the market offers such practical, hands-on advice to answer the questions that most employees are asking. It offers deep insights, original thinking and nuts-and-bolts advice that are bound to change the way people think about work.

These books are available at National Book Store.



'St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos' now a musical

IN CELEBRATION of its 30th anniversary, Dulaang UP will stage the world premiere of Floy Quintos' "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos… The Musical."

"And St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos" was originally written as a full-length play in three acts in 1994. In the same year, it was staged by DUP at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater under the direction of Tony Mabesa. Now considered a contemporary classic, "And St. Louis…" is a moving testament to the resiliency of the Filipino spirit.

"And St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos" is the retelling of the experience of the first tribal Filipinos sent to the United States in 1904. Bulan, a Bagobo warrior or "magani," and other members of Filipino ethnic tribes were sent to St. Louis, Missouri, as part of the Philippines Reservation Exhibit in the World Trade Exposition of that year. The show of tribals sought to justify America's colonization of the islands. The role of Bulan is played by Miguel Castro and Arnold Reyes.

"St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos… The Musical" is the second collaboration of Quintos and director Alexander Cortez after the acclaimed run of "Fluid" last year. Original music is by Antonio Paterno Africao. The cast includes Richard Cunanan, Ron Capindig, Rina Saporsantos, Mae Ann Valentin, Jake Macapagal, and the Dulaang UP Ensemble.

The world premiere of "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos…The Musical" opens in July 13 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theatre, UP Diliman. It will run until July 31.

Auditions for Rep's 'Taming of the Shrew'

REPERTORY Philippines is holding auditions for its coming production of William Shakespeare's comedy, "The Taming of the Shrew."

Open to all amateur and professional male actors, the auditions will be held at Repertory Philippines, Karrivin Plaza, 2316 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati, on June 30 at 2 p.m. Fluency in English is required.

Preference will be given to those with experience in acting Shakespeare. Applicants must be able to do weekday and weekend shows and are asked to bring their resumés and a 2x2 photo.

Rep's production of "The Taming of the Shrew" will run at Rep's Globe Theatre at Onstage in Greenbelt 1, Makati City, from September 2 to 25. It will be directed by Bart Guingona and will feature an all-male cast.

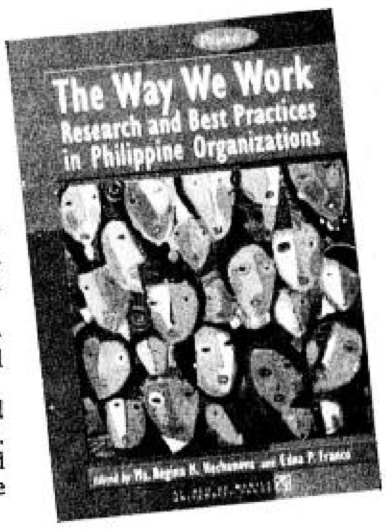
"The Taming of the Shrew" is open to school, social, advertising and fund-raising performances. For more details on the auditions, ticket reservations and show bookings, call the Repertory Philippines office at 887-0710, or visit its offices at C2-A, Bldg. C, Karrivin Plaza, 2316 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City.

Ateneo press holds book sale

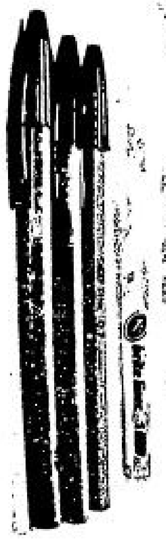
TO WELCOME the new semester and to celebrate 33 years of quality scholarly publishing, the Ateneo Press' well-loved classics, literary favorites and new ground-breaking titles will be sold at 15-30 percent discount from today until June 30 at the press bookshop, G/F Bellarmine Hall, AdMU campus, Katipunan, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Sale hours are 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays and 8-12 p.m. on Saturdays.

Visit www.ateneopress.com, and e-mail (unipresscaadmu.edu.ph) or call 4265984 to reserve titles. Reservations may be held until the end of the sale period.



Fine writing tools for school work



FOR GRADESCHOOLERS, the Bic Matic Shimmer is the perfect writing tool. This mechanical pencil, which comes in different colors, outlasts normal wood-cased pencils and is never dull. For mess-free arts and crafts projects, the Bic glue stick is a must-have. It is a reliable and an easy to use adhesive.

Take down notes that are clear and easy to read with Bic Intensity Clic gel pen. Aside from intense color and smooth writing, it has a rubber grip providing writing comfort. Put some color into your notes with Bic Flirt. These gel pens come in four fun colors: pink, blue, yellow and mint green.

Bic writing instruments are available at National Book Store.

Salinlahi concert toasts Philippine freedom

HUNDREDS of Filipino artists and performers paid tribute to Philippine independence at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

The Department of Tourism (DOT) and the CCP staged the grand "asalto" called Salinlahi in honor of the nation's patriots and artists. This year's National Day theme was "Kalayaan: Isang Pilipinas! Bayan Ko, Mahal Ko!"

"Salinlahi is a meaningful commemoration of both our nation's independence and our rich culture, giving us more reasons to continuously uphold our country," said DOT Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano.

Memorable performances included "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan," the lullaby by National Artists for Music Lucio D. San Pedro and Levi Celerio, as performed by Tony awardee Lea Salonga, with orchestral arrangement by Gerard Salonga.

Another poignant presentation was "Bayan Ko," an excerpt from the Tanghalang Pilipino production of the *sarswela*, "Walang Sugat," with music by Constancio de Guzman and lyrics by José Corazon de Jesus.

SINANDULOY Cultural Troupe of Tangub City

TRIBU Pintados de Passi of Passi City, Iloilo

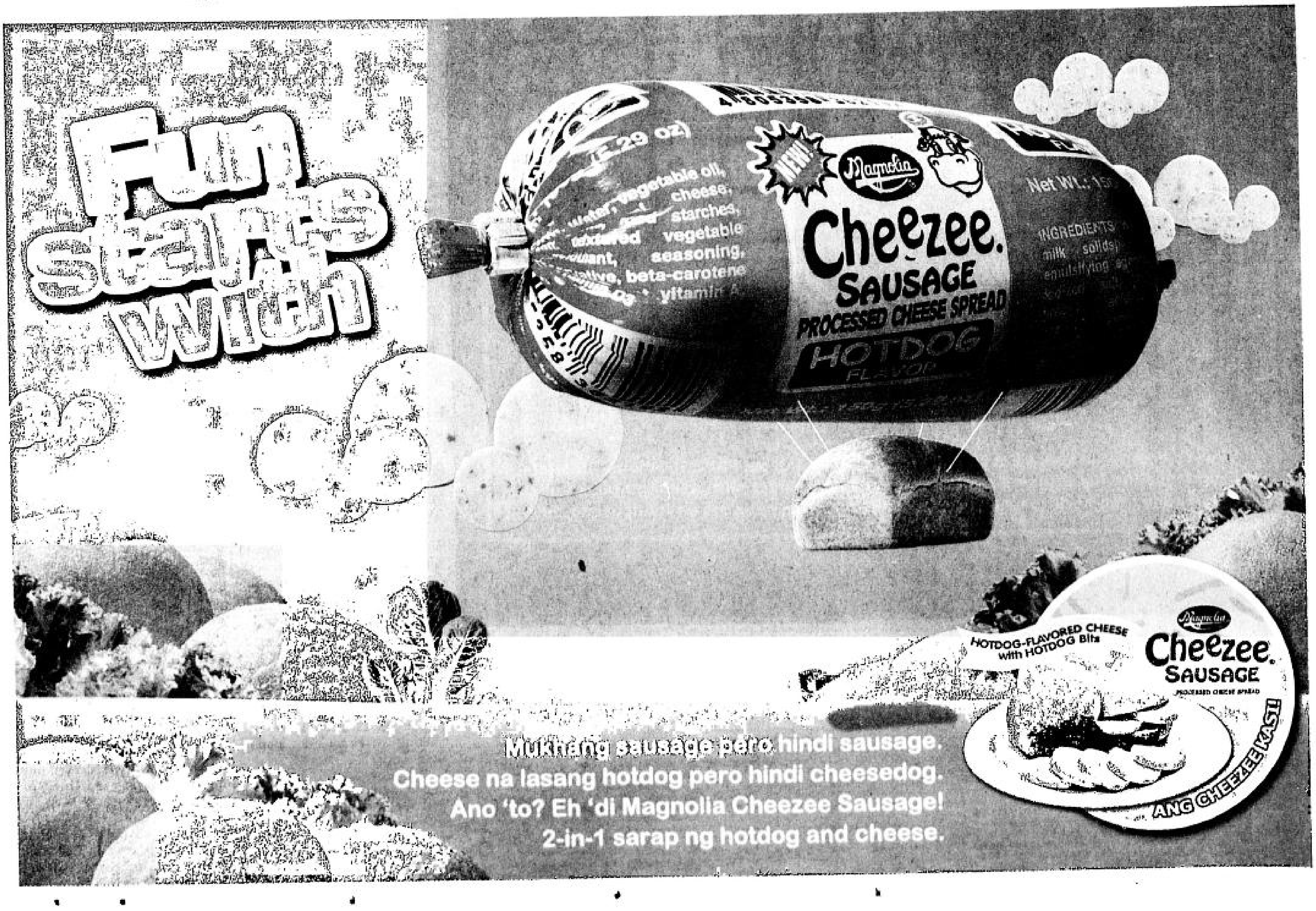
Other performers were soprano Ma. Rachelle Gerodias, Rueben Laurente of The Company, Luis Nieto, Ballet Philippines, Madz, Diliman Philippine Music Ensemble, Kaloob, Philippine Barangay Folk Dance Troupe, Quezon City Performing Arts, Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Philippine Children's Choir of Mandaluyong, and Kaisahan ng Lahi Dance Ensemble.

The production was directed by Dennis Marasigan. Musical director and conductor was Josefino Chino Toledo.

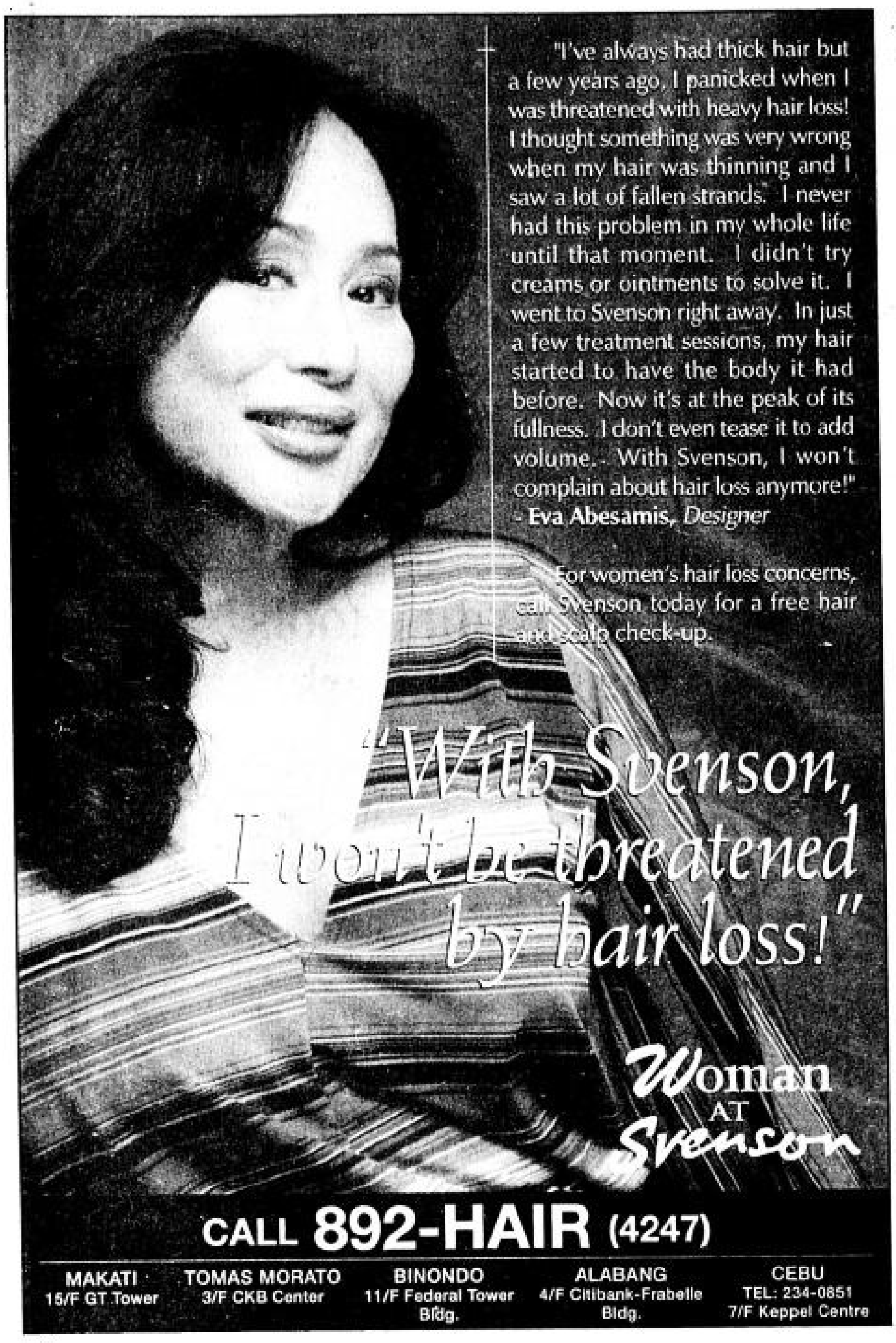
CCP president Nestor Jardin encouraged the Filipino people to continue rediscovering the country's rich heritage.

"We enjoin the youth to cultivate in their hearts a deep love of country and a strong desire to help build our nation and protect our cultural heritage," he said.

"We ask our elders to stoke, among our young, the fires of patriotism, a deep sense of dignity and pride as Filipinos, an unwavering commitment to guarding our freedom, now and in the future."


Fun starts with
NEW!
Magnolia
Cheezee. SAUSAGE
PROCESSED CHEESE SPREAD
HOTDOG FLAVOR
HOTDOG-FLAVORED CHEESE with HOTDOG Bits
ANG CHEEZEE KASI!
Mukhang sausage pero hindi sausage.
Cheese na lasang hotdog pero hindi cheesedog.
Ano 'to? Eh 'di Magnolia Cheezee Sausage!
2-in-1 sarap ng hotdog and cheese.

20 gorgeous women in Metro


"I've always had thick hair but a few years ago, I panicked when I was threatened with heavy hair loss! I thought something was very wrong when my hair was thinning and I saw a lot of fallen strands. I never had this problem in my whole life until that moment. I didn't try creams or ointments to solve it. I went to Svenson right away. In just a few treatment sessions, my hair started to have the body it had before. Now it's at the peak of its fullness. I don't even tease it to add volume. With Svenson, I won't complain about hair loss anymore!"
- **Eva Abesamis**, *Designer*

For women's hair loss concerns, call Svenson today for a free hair and scalp check-up.

"With Svenson, I won't be threatened by hair loss!"

Woman AT Svenson

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IN METRO, top fashion designers and labels choose the country's 20 most beautiful women. The list includes bag maker Bea Valdes, equestrienne Mikee Cojuangco Jaworksi, newscaster Pinky Webb and restaurateur Margarita Fores.

One of the secrets behind staying beautiful is a good haircut, so Metro lists down the best hair stylists in the city.

Plus: an inside look on the glamorous houses of celebrities Claudine Barretto, Jericho Rosales and Julius and TinTin Babao.

StarStudio, the largest circulated magazine in the Philippines, gets a first crack at the beautiful home of the very private Piolo Pascual.

The actor gave StarStudio an exclusive tour of his Mexican-inspired house, from the courtyard to the walk-in closet and his bedroom.

StarStudio also features Mark Anthony Fernandez in a no-holds-barred interview; 34 years of pictures chronicling Maricel Soriano's career; Sharon Cuneta as a movie producer; and the recent travels of Hero Angeles, Heart Evangelista, and Troy Montero and Aubrey Miles.

Working Mom features Claudine Barretto and her adopted kid, Sabina Natasha.

The magazine will tell you how to earn P10,000 from making salad-dressing. It also has a health alert on dangerous foods and features on the "*paluwagan*" and three moms who conquered various fears—of heights, speaking in public and entertaining in-laws.

Ever wondered what guys really talk about?

Chalk's got the answers in its back-to-school special. Seven guys give their take on the different things guys obsess about—from sex to gadgets and relationships.

METRO
FREE! P125,000 WORTH OF PRIZES
DESIGNERS CHOOSE 20 MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN
HOT ACCESS
MASTER CUTTERS
TOP HAIRSTYLISTS GIVE YOU THE CUT
KNOWING WHEN TO LEAVE YOUR HUSBAND
MARIKINA SHOE EXPO

Chalk also rounded up a list of shopping places to score cheap finds. It also has tips on how to look great even when you've got only a few minutes to get ready for class.

The issue offers a four-year plan to surviving college, an exclusive interview with Orlando Bloom and a profile of the new Modess girl, Iya Villania.

In its June issue, Food Magazine teaches you several do-it-yourselfs: Chocolate Rum Balls, healthy baby food, wedding cake and homemade bacon.

Jundy Gueco gives her recipe for seared pork chops with apple-pepper relish. Also featured is the Manila visit of famous TV chef Mario Batali.

STARSTUDIO
COME HOME TO PIOLO

Tatler features top expats

ROSANNE Prieto headlines this month's Philippine Tatler that has an unusual "wild life" theme. Yes, those snakes are real and they're the perfect foil for one of the Philippines' most beautiful women. The pictorial is by Raymund Isaac.

PHILIPPINE TATLER
Basic Instinct
ROSANNE PRIETO

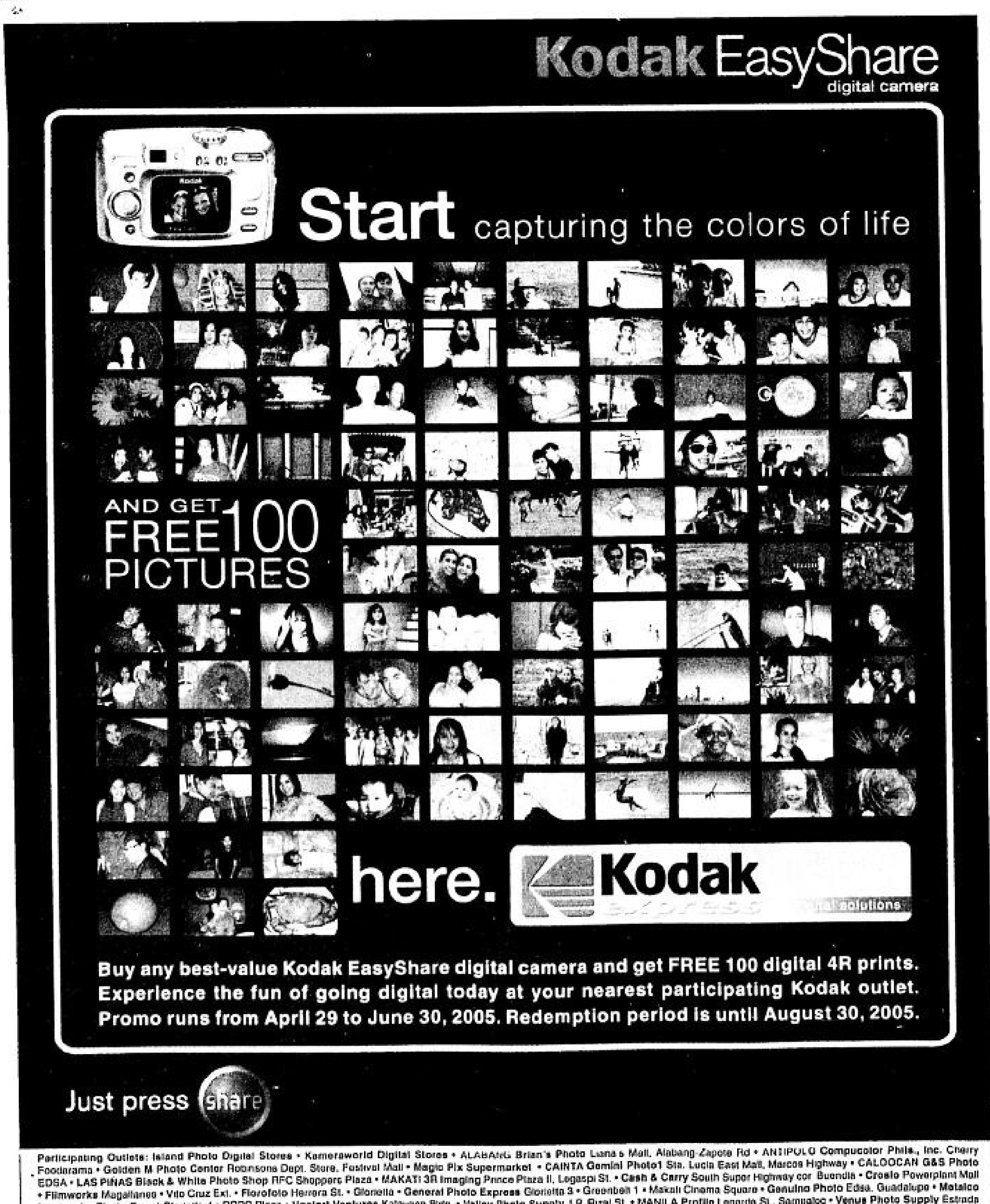
In the same issue, Tatler pays tribute to top global executives or expats working in the country, such as former US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone; Warner Manning of Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp.; Tertius Vermuelen of Siemens; Rick Santos; Howard Belton of Unilever; George Drysdale of Marsman/Drysdale; Joerg Breuer of BMW; and David Batchelor, Helmut Gaisberger and Christian Pirodon of the Peninsula, Mandarin Oriental and the Intercon hotels, respectively.

The magazine also honors one of the country's greatest patriots and artists, Juan Luna. "The Painter and the Revolution" focuses on his masterpiece, "Spoliarium," and how it influenced the country's revolution against Spain.

On a lighter note, the magazine takes its readers behind the scenes at the launch of Philippine Tatler Society.

There are regular features on beautiful homes, the best in fine dining, high-profile personalities and the hottest parties.

Philippine Tatler is published by Style Media, Inc. Call 8140771 local 111.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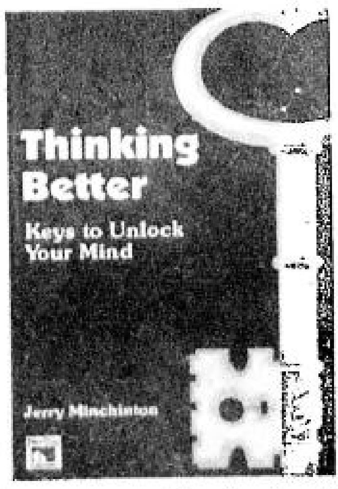
New Day book on positive thinking

NEW Day Publishers provides an important tool in meeting the challenges of the daily toil with "Thinking Better: Keys to Unlock Your Mind," the latest of self-help book series by noted motivational author Jerry Minchinton.

The 90-page book contains 44 short essays on how to avoid and solve problems, with each entry ending with a "thinking better statement" that serves as an affirmation or a guide to the reader.

Topics include making appreciation a habit, opening a "mental savings account," expanding understanding, increasing "happiness quotient," eliminating non-problems in one's life and making wise choices, among others.

"The keys in this book can help you unlock defective ideas and replace them with beliefs that work for you. Not only will you think better, you'll feel and live better too," says Minchinton.



The Missouri-based author also wrote "52 Things You Can Do to Raise Your Self-Esteem," which New Day is also distributing, and "Wising Up: How to Stop Making Such A Mess of Your Life."

The book is available at leading bookstores nationwide. Call 928-8046 or 9275982. E-mail newdayorders@edsamail.com.ph